

STARS AND STRIPES®

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Oprah Winfrey

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2004



Heads up

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AP
A U.S. soldier uses a dummy to draw a sniper into view Friday in Najaf, Iraq. A day after militants loyal to Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr removed all weapons from Najaf's shrine, brief but heavy fighting still was breaking out in the city. The militants were bickering over how to transfer the shrine over to religious authorities.

Bush, Kerry at odds over ads

Democrat files complaint over spots attacking Vietnam record

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Dropping the ball

U.S. men's basketball team loses for second time in the Olympics, falling to Lithuania 94-90

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Final lap

Phelps gets eighth medal from sideline as 400 relay takes gold; U.S. women lose lead, settle for bronze in 400 relay

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Catholic church settlements: A recent court ruling is casting doubt on future settlements between churches and alleged victims of clergy sex abuse.

Hamden Superior Court Judge John Agostini last week upheld the state's charitable immunity statute in a lawsuit filed by a woman who was suing the Worcester Diocese for abuse.

The law says charitable institutions — including churches — are shielded from prosecution for alleged crimes that happened before 1971. The law also limits the institutions' liability to \$20,000 after that date.

WTC American flag: An American flag that flew over the post office across from the World Trade Center was returned to Ground Zero on Thursday during a rededication ceremony for the newly restored post office.

The flag, which was found in the rubble of the trade center after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack, will be mounted in the lobby of the post office at 90 Church St. as a memorial.

"This flag, covered with the dust and debris, became a symbol of hope — hope that this building would one day be restored to service — and hope that the people of New York and this nation would also be restored," said Postmaster General John Potter.

National D-Day Memorial: The official who raised money to build the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford pleaded not guilty Thursday to federal fraud charges.

Richard B. Burrow, 57, is accused of manipulating banks and the state of Virginia as part of an aggressive scheme to build the \$25 million monument before its supervising foundation had enough money to pay for it.

The memorial already was in debt before President Bush helped dedicate it on July 6, 2001, the 57th anniversary of the Allied invasion of Normandy during World War II. In the following months Burrow stepped down, and foundation officials acknowledged they owed \$7 million.

Courtney Love cases: Courtney Love pleaded innocent Friday to a felony assault charge for allegedly attacking a woman with a liquor bottle at her ex-boyfriend's home in April.

The mercurial rocker, wearing a long black dress, was composed in court, responding to Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner Dennis Mulcahy's questions with "yes" or "no." Outside, she appeared shaken while talking with reporters.

A preliminary hearing was set for Oct. 7.

Abandonment case: U.S. State Department officials learned that seven American children had been abandoned at a Nigerian orphanage but waited more than a week to check on the youths, who were suffering from malnutrition, malaria and typhoid.

A person who the State Department would only identify as a "local contact" in Nigeria told the consulate in Lagos about the children on Aug. 30.

But a consular official saw the children for the first time on Aug. 7.

State Department spokeswoman Kelly Shannon said she did not know why it took so long for a consular official to personally check the Nigerian government's assurances that the three boys and four girls were safe and well cared for.

Nader's candidacy: Independent presidential candidate Ralph Nader suffered set-



Mars rovers: A view from one of the two rovers exploring the planet Mars is shown during a news conference on the latest findings at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. After spending 160 days traversing a plain and climbing a steep hill, the Mars explorer Spirit is finding the first strong indications of significant quantities of water at Meridiani Planum. Spirit's twin, Opportunity, has found powerful evidence of water halfway around Mars in Gusev Crater, but until now Spirit has had less success.

backs this week as election officials in Virginia, Maryland, Illinois and Missouri all denied him access to state ballots this fall.

In each case, officials said Nader campaign workers either did not submit enough valid signatures on ballot petitions or failed to follow proper procedures.

On Friday, Virginia's election board secretary, Jean Jensen, said Nader workers failed to meet state requirements that the signatures be grouped according to congressional district, and then by localities within each of the 11 districts.

Pakistani immigration case: The immigration case against a Pakistani citizen arrested by a police officer who spotted him videotaping uptown Charlotte skyscrapers could go before a federal grand jury Monday.

An attorney for Kamran Akhtar, George Miller, had until Friday to request a probable cause hearing for his client on immigration charges.

Miller did not request such a hearing, said Suellen Pierce, spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney's office. Miller did not return a telephone message left at his office Friday.

The next step for prosecutors is to present the case to a grand jury, Pierce said.

Business

Enron trials: Enron founder Kenneth Lay doesn't want to go to trial alongside his one-time protégé, former CEO Jeffrey Skilling.

The feeling is mutual. Both argue in court filings — Skilling in papers filed Friday, Lay last week — that the allegations against them thinly overlap if at all, so they should be tried separately.

The government wants to try them and the third co-defendant in their pending indictment, former Enron chief accounting officer Richard Causey, together in March next year. Lay wants a trial as soon as possible, and Skilling and Causey want another year and a half to prepare.

World

Pinochet secret account: A Chilean judge has questioned Gen. Augusto Pinochet about the former dictator's secret bank account in the United States contain-

ing as much as \$8 million, judicial officials said Friday.

Pinochet, 88, answered questions during an appearance last week before the judge investigating the source of the money, said a court official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The questioning came two weeks after Pinochet's wife, two daughters and a son also appeared before the judge as part of an investigation prompted by a U.S. Senate investigation that revealed Pinochet kept accounts at Washington D.C.-based Riggs Bank.

Bobby Fischer case: A Japanese court dismissed a request to halt deportation proceedings against fugitive chess legend Bobby Fischer, his lawyers said Friday.

Fischer, wanted in the United States for allegedly violating international sanctions on the former Yugoslavia, was detained in Japan last month when trying to travel on an invalid American passport. He has been battling a deportation order to the United States.

The Tokyo District Court rejected the request to have Japanese immigration officials halt procedures to deport him, his legal team said in a faxed statement late Friday.

Congo war crimes: Leaders of a Burundian rebel group have said they are ready to defend themselves in an international court against war crimes charges after taking responsibility for the massacre of 163 refugees.

The spokesman for the National Liberation Force, Pasteur Habimana, continued to claim responsibility for the massacre of the Congolese Tutsi, who were living in a U.N. camp inside Burundi.

The rebels claim the camp was used to house Congolese Tutsi fighters.

Asian bird flu: Malaysian officials on Saturday were testing four people — three from a village hit by the deadly H5N1 bird flu strain — after international health officials warned that the virus appeared to be entrenched in parts of Southeast Asia.

Chinese researchers said Friday they had discovered the virulent strain of the disease in pig and poultry in northern Thailand and reported a new outbreak in ducks.

Stories and photos from wire services



U.S. Army soldiers jump through a wall coming out of the ancient cemetery during a gun battle with insurgents in Najaf, Iraq, on Saturday. Despite a recent effort to end the crisis, fighting still continues in the city.

Militants hold fast in Najaf

Al-Sadr's rebels bicker over terms of shrine transfer

BY ABDUL HUSSEIN
AL-OBEIDI

The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — Militants loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr kept their hold on a revered shrine Saturday as they bickered over the terms of its transfer to religious authorities, further prolonging more than two weeks of fighting with U.S. forces here.

As the crisis persisted, brief but heavy clashes broke out near the Old City and Najaf's vast cemetery, the center of much of the previous violence. Witnesses said a blast hit the street more than 50 yards from the sacred Imam Ali Shrine compound. The cause of the explosion was not clear.

The clashes, punctuated by gunfire and explosions, lasted about 45 minutes before petering out. Marine Capt. Carrie Bateson said U.S. troops came under mortar attack in the Old City and destroyed two militant mortar positions with gunfire and an Apache helicopter attack.

Still, the level of fighting in the city in recent days — as the militants made moves to end the crisis — was far less than it had been.

Meanwhile, a series of attacks targeting U.S. and Iraqi forces throughout Iraq on Saturday killed a U.S. soldier, a Polish soldier and five Iraqis. Militants have been using car bombs, assassinations, sabotage, kidnappings and other attacks in a 16-month insurgency aimed at destabilizing the country.

But the violence in Najaf, which had spread to other Shiite communities, posed the greatest risk to the interim government of Prime Minister Ayad Allawi. Government officials had threatened to raid the mosque to set an example to other insurgent groups, but

such an operation risked turning the nation's majority Shiites against the government.

The crisis appeared on the verge of resolution Friday, when insurgents decided to remove their weapons from the shrine, where they had been taking refuge, and turn the holy site over to representatives of Iraq's top Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Hussein al-Sistani.

But the transfer bogged down Saturday amid arguments over its implementation; al-Sadr aides

**"All parties
are stalling."**

Saeed Mohammed
Najaf resident

said they tried to give the shrine's keys to al-Sistani's representatives, who refused to accept them.

"If the brothers in the office of al-Sadr want to vacate the holy shrine compound and close the doors and hand over the keys, then the office of the religious authority in Najaf will take the keys for safekeeping until the crisis ends," Sheikh Hamed Khafai, an al-Sistani aide, said from London, where the cleric is undergoing medical treatment. "We cannot receive the shrine compound unless they agree to this formula."

Sheik Ali Smeisim, al-Sadr's chief lieutenant, said the militants would not leave until a delegation from al-Sistani's office inspects the shrine to ensure its treasures are intact, so they could not be accused of taking anything.

Khafai said the violence precludes such a delegation.

The standoff has frustrated many in Najaf, who have suffered cuts in their water and electricity, had their streets rocked by explosions and seen scores of their in-

nocent neighbors killed since the fighting started Aug. 5.

"All parties are stalling," said Saeed Mohammed, 41. "There has been no change, only more shelling and clashes that have hurt the city even more."

The proposed handover of the shrine to religious authorities offered a face-saving way to end the fighting, allowing Iraq's interim government to keep its pledge not to negotiate and the militants to say they had not capitulated.

As the crisis continued, al-Sadr aide Sheikh Awas al-Khafai said Saturday that kidnappers had lifted their threat to kill a U.S. journalist abducted in the southern city of Nasiriyah along with his Iraqi translator Aug. 13.

The kidnappers, calling themselves the Martyrs Brigade, threatened Thursday to kill Micah Garen of New York within 48 hours if U.S. troops did not leave Najaf.

Al-Khafai said Saturday that mediators told him the death threat had been removed and they were working for Garen's release.

"We hope that he will be released today and our efforts would be fruitful," he said Saturday. "As for the Iraqi translator, we have received assurances that he is going to be released with the journalist."

Violence continued across the country.

Insurgents bombed an oil pipeline in Berjisiya, 20 miles southwest of the southern city of Basra on Saturday, setting a blaze, said Lt. Mohammed al-Mousawi of the Iraqi National Guard.

The pipeline, which connects the Rumaila oilfields with export storage tanks in the Faw peninsula, had been shut down for a week due to threats from insurgents, and the attack did not appear likely to effect exports.

Union urges U.N. staff to withdraw from Afghanistan

Recent attacks lead to safety concerns

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The bombing of a U.N. election office in Afghanistan that injured six policemen drew calls from a U.N. union Friday that the world body consider withdrawing staffers from the embattled nation.

The Staff Union urged for a security review and revamped safety measures for Afghanistan-based U.N. personnel, saying, "The safety of staff remains the highest priority."

"As we approach the election time, more than likely attacks will intensify," said Guy Candusso, the union's vice-president.

"We think the U.N. should consider suspending operations and rethink security before moving into the next critical phase of the election process."

The union noted that other recent attacks on election workers have highlighted the dangers. U.N. chief Kofi Annan said this week that violence has increased since being aimed at U.N. staff and offices in Afghanistan.

Afghan voters are scheduled to elect a president on Oct. 9 and a parliament in April.

U.N. associate spokesman Stephane Dujarric, asked about a possible staff withdrawal from Afghanistan, said a U.N. security assistance mission recently returned from the country with specific recommendations which have been approved and are in

the process of being implemented.

"The overall security in Afghanistan is in the process of being upgraded, both on a management and operational level," he said.

"Obviously, security is being examined on a daily basis in the country's different regions. And as in every mission, we have to tailor our activities to the security conditions."

In the latest attack targeting election workers, a series of bombs went off Thursday at a U.N. voter registration office in Farah City in western Afghanistan, near the border with Iraq. Six policemen were injured, two seriously, and vehicles were set ablaze and windows shattered.

Police have detained four security guards, two Afghans working for the United Nations, and a U.N. security guard for questioning.

It was not clear who was behind the attack.

Taliban militants have been blamed for a series of attacks on workers preparing the country for its first presidential vote.

The blasts occurred on the first anniversary of the bombing at U.N. headquarters in Kabul, which killed 22 people, including top U.N. envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello. That attack, and the subsequent investigation that criticized a "dysfunctional" U.N. security management system, has led to a major overhaul and rethinking of U.N. security worldwide.

Associated Press Writers Nor Khar and Paul Taylor in Afghanistan contributed to this report.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 949 U.S. service-members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 708 died as a result of hostile action and 241 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 64 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, 11; Poland, nine; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 811 U.S. servicemen have died — 599 as a result of hostile action and 212 of non-hostile causes.

The latest deaths reported by military:

■ A Marine was killed in action Thursday in Anbar province.

■ A U.S. soldier was killed Thursday by a roadside bomb in Samarra.

The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defense:

■ Army Spc. Jacob D. Martin, 21, Norwich, Conn.; died Wednesday in Sadr City when his patrol came under fire, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Marine Lance Plt. Caleb J. Powers, 21, Manfield, Wash.; killed Tuesday in Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Plt. Dustin R. Fitzgerald, 22, Huber Heights, Ohio; died Wednesday in a nonhostile related vehicle incident in Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Battalion, Landing Team 4, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Sgt. Harvey E. Parkerson III, 27, Yuba City, Calif.; killed Wednesday in Anbar province; assigned to Battalion Landing Team 4, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Army determining new Afghanistan tactics

Trainers trying to anticipate future conditions for troops

BY JON R. ANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Top-level Army trainers are trying to look into a crystal ball to create a work-up package for troops headed to an Afghanistan that doesn't exist yet.

A 10-man team from the Hohenfels, Germany-based Combat Maneuver Training Center has been dispatched to Afghanistan to figure out the kind of conditions the next rotation of forces into the combat zone might find there.

"We've come over here to check out the area so that we can build realistic and relevant training package for follow-on forces," said Lt. Col. Knowles Atchison, a senior observer-controller for the training center.

The group will lead the training for the Italy-based Southern European Task Force in coming months as the unit prepares to take over command of the Afghanistan mission from the 25th Infantry Division in this spring.

But in a combat zone, a lot can

happen in just a few months. Just ask the 1st Infantry Division.

Troops from the 1st ID were at the training center last October for their deployment into Iraq in March. The training in Germany was almost up-to-the-minute, with troops facing scenarios that replicated incidents that had occurred in Iraq the day before.

But by the time troops arrived into the war zone, many complained much of what they'd learned in Germany had become outdated.

Training center officials have taken the criticism to heart and are trying to adapt training.

"We were training a lot of unnecessary and outdated stuff," said Sgt. Maj. Fernando Torres, another trainer now in Afghanistan. "Unfortunately, we were not current to the actual missions troops were facing. We have to be more up-to-date."

But with a constantly adapting enemy, that's easier said than done.

"What's going on here in Afghanistan even right now is not



Lt. Col. Eric Nantz

necessarily going to be relevant six months from now," said Lt. Col. Jack Bone, the top aviation trainer at CMTTC.

"The bad guys' [tactics, techniques and procedures] are maturing," added Lt. Col. Chris Delors, the center's operations officer. "Every day, they're learning and adapting to our countermeasures."

With SETAF slated for its rotation at the training center in September and October, but not deploying into Afghanistan until March and April, that makes for an interesting dilemma for the trainers.



Lt. Col. Knowles Atchison

"We don't want our training to replicate what's going on here today," said Capt. Eric Remoy, "because that's probably not going to be what units face."

An intelligence officer for the training center, it's Remoy's job to help divine what Afghanistan will look like once the unit arrives.

"Right now there's no assessment out there on what it's going to be like nine months from now," said Remoy, "at least none that I can get my hands on."

So the trainers are building their own assessments by talking

to troops and leaders on the ground to help them gauge where things might be going in the coming months.

With presidential and parliamentary elections slated between now and then, plus factional fighting on the rise and an increasingly aggressive insurgency, there are a lot of variables to factor into the training.

"We're never going to duplicate what troops experience," said Bone. "It's never going to be exactly what they find once they hit the ground."

That's why as much as they hope to build realistic scenarios for units, the trainers also are trying to find ways to help soldiers adapt to the combat zone on their own.

"We're trying to get away from what to think and more towards how to think," said Lt. Col. Eric Nantz, the chief maneuver trainer.

"There are no checklists now," he said, troops have to learn it's up to them to stay one step ahead of the enemy."

"Soldiers must accept responsibility to think on their feet," added Atchison. "Because that's exactly what the enemy is doing."

E-mail Jon R. Anderson at: anderson@mil.estripes.osd.mil

Strikeforce weathers well in deadly desert heat

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — Hard training during the South Korean summer has helped 2nd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team avoid heat injuries during its first two weeks in the Middle East, officials say.

Since the first Strikeforce soldiers arrived in Kuwait earlier this month, no one has succumbed to the heat, Strikeforce surgeon Capt. Matt Hing said Thursday.

Other units based in Kuwait have not fared so well in the 120-degree temperatures, he said, citing a National Guard unit training alongside the Strikeforce at Udairi Range that suffered two heat injuries in a single day last week.

Hing, 32, of Sacramento, Calif., has spent the past year in South Korea with 2nd ID. He said Strikeforce soldiers are used to training in the hot conditions near the Korean Demilitarized Zone.

"We come from a unit that is used to extreme heat and we are used to being on a high state of alert for heat injury during spring and summer months," he said.

The 2nd ID had several heat injuries last summer, but Strikeforce avoided such problems during training for the Middle East deployment, he said.

"In South Korea, we trained not just to rehearse different combat situations but we wanted to be outdoors for an extended period," Hing said.

A range of tactics have helped



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Two soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment — Pvt. Jason Sparks, 19, of Monroeville, Ohio, and Pvt. Allen Morgan, 20, of Munford, Alabama — suck on their CamelBak water bladders to stay hydrated in the hot weather at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Strikeforce keep heat injuries at bay, he said.

Every Strikeforce soldier has been issued two CamelBaks and ordered to drink from them regularly, Hing said.

"We are enforcing hydration and we made it easy for soldiers to hydrate," he said.

At Camp Buehring, there are pallets of water scattered throughout the areas where Strikeforce soldiers live and work; in buildings, outside doorways, and inside tents.

Pvt. Jason Sparks, 19, of Company C, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, said training in the Kuwaiti heat does not bother him. "It seems cooler than South Korea because it doesn't have humidity," he said.

The Monroeville, Ohio, native and his buddies each take four bottles of water and a full CamelBak when they train in the desert, he said.

"As long as you stay hydrated, you are fine," he said.

Soldiers are particularly at risk

of heat injury because they spend so much time working outdoors, Hing said.

"Our soldiers literally exercise three to four times a day and they are doing other stuff between their workouts — walking from site to site with a rucksack, carrying heavy equipment. Even the support units have long hours and are exposed to the elements for long periods of time," he said.

Serious heat injuries include heat exertion and heat stroke. A person suffering from these condi-



Capt. Matt Hing

tions has an elevated core body temperature, Hing said.

"With heat stroke, the core body temperature is 105 degrees or more. It is so high they could get brain damage," he said.

A person with heat stroke may become confused and start behaving strangely, he said.

"The reason why heat stroke is so serious is because people who get heat stroke can get all sorts of organ failure. It can kill within hours or days," he said.

Drinking enough water is just one part of heat injury prevention, he said.

Eating regularly, getting adequate rest, using sunscreen and steering clear of caffeinated drinks all help prevent soldiers becoming dehydrated, he said.

E-mail Seth Robson at: robson@mil.estripes.osd.mil

March protection

Troops from the 25th Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment joined Iraqi police last week in providing security for marchers at a memorial for an Iraqi religious leader killed a year ago in sectarian violence.

The march in Kirkuk celebrated the memory of Mohammed Bakr Hakim, the leader of Iraq's Higher Islamic Revolutionary Council, who was murdered in a car-bomb attack last year in Najaf. The march was concluded without incident, according to the daily press briefing of the Tikrit-based Task Force Danger.

The 1-21 Infantry is based at Schofield Barracks near Honolulu and has been deployed to Iraq under the command of 1st Infantry Division since March.

Training in Cairo

CAIRO, Egypt — More than 250 Iraqi security officers began training Saturday at Cairo's police academy as part of Egypt's role in rehabilitating the Iraqi security apparatus, an Interior Ministry official said.

The 259 Iraqi officers arrived in Cairo on Friday, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

No other details were available. Egypt has said it would not send troops to Iraq, though it is willing to help rebuild the Iraqi security forces.

Jordan has also taken on training, with more than 4,000 Iraqi army and police cadets attending courses so far this year.

From staff and wire reports

Iraqi oil experts decry KBR work

BY SHAFIKA MATTAR

The Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — Iraqi oil experts on Saturday rebuked an American firm helping rehabilitate Iraq's oil industry, saying it has failed to do an adequate job in the vital sector. KBR, which was contracted through the U.S. Department of Defense, "has not done an excellent job, it has not done a good job at all," said Mohammed Aboush, a former director-general of the Iraqi Oil Ministry.

"We have attended several meetings with the firm and set up priorities for work, but we had only schedules and promises, many of them did not materialize," added Aboush, who said he quit his job with the ministry two months ago. He declined to discuss specifics. Mustafa al-Bazergan, an Iraqi oil expert, said the United States allocated \$809 million through KBR — which is based in Houston — for rebuilding Iraqi oil installations and rehabilitating the oil industry.

"But very little was achieved, less than 10 percent," he said.

KBR is a subsidiary of Halliburton, which has been awarded more than \$6 billion in contracts related to the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, but the company has been under fire for allegedly overcharging the government.

In general, he said, many foreign firms working in Iraq use deteriorating security conditions as a "pretext to delay plans, which is hampering the rebuilding process and affecting the rehabilitation of the Iraqi oil sector."

Both Iraqis spoke on the sidelines of a workshop organized by the London-based British-Iraq Chamber of Commerce. The two-day workshop, titled "Oil and Gas in Iraq," opened in the Jordanian capital on Saturday and aims



Iraqi oil experts and officials meet in Amman, Jordan, on Saturday during a workshop to discuss the rebuilding of the Iraqi oil and gas sector.

to provide opportunities for businessmen to invest in the Iraqi oil industry.

Some 70 experts and businessmen from 14 countries — including the United States, Britain, Poland, Germany, France, Jordan and India — are listed as participants. A larger meeting on Iraqi oil industry is planned by the same organizer in Jordan on Nov. 22.

Tariq Abdul-Muhsein, director of the state South Gas Company, called for a multinational force to protect Iraq's oil industry, particularly from pipeline sabotage blamed on insurgents.

"When America entered Iraq, it was clear that it had the responsibility to protect the oil

wealth that affects not only the citizens of Iraq, but the whole world," he said. "We need multinational forces because they have the expertise, the means of safety, planes and mobile patrols to protect Iraq's oil industry."

Simon Brady, an official with a British security firm in charge of training Iraqis to prevent sabotage of oil pipelines and installations, said he was optimistic about Iraq's oil future.

"People make it clear that they have had enough with the insurgents. Confidence will return and that will attract investment," said Brady of maritime security firm Hart GMSSCO.

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| Bald | 3-9 Sep |
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| Baumholder | 24-30 Sep |
| Biburg | 8-14 Oct |
| Camp Doha | 24-30 Sep |
| Carmelstadt | 1-7 Oct |
| Dexheim | 17-23 Sep |
| Friedberg | 15-21 Oct |
| Giebelstadt | 1-7 Oct |
| Grafenwehr | 10-16 Sep |
| Hann | 10-16 Sep |
| Heidelberg | 10-16 Sep |
| Hohenfels | 17-23 Sep |
| Kitzingen | 24-30 Sep |
| Kosovo | 29 Oct - 4 Nov |
| Lakenheath | 10-16 Sep |
| Manheim | 3-9 Sep |
| Mildenhall | 3-9 Sep |
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PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
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WITHOUT A PADDLE

Three lifelong friends from Philadelphia go into the Oregon wilderness in search of lost treasure. Canoeing down the Columbia River, the trio soon finds that the canoeing experience goes wrong as the river turns dangerous. They find themselves hunted by two backwoods farmers, encounter tree hugging hippie chicks and a crazy old mountain man.

AAFES

Showtimes are subject to change. Please check your local theater or aafes.com to verify show dates.

FIRST RUN THEATERS

Baumholder hanging in the balance

Realignment makes base's fate uncertain

BY TERRY BOYD

Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — If there was ever a base on the bubble, it's Baumholder.

German officials — noting that Baumholder is a major U.S. Army base close to Ramstein Air Base and the Kaiserslautern Military Community — hope its location will keep it open.

But, as a 1st Armored Division base, its future is far from assured.

Senior U.S. defense officials confirmed at a Pentagon background briefing on Monday that the 1st Infantry Division and 1st AD will leave Germany. Pentagon officials emphasized the transformation of forces will occur over 10 years, and so far, there are no appropriations to build facilities in the United States to accommodate the division's four land brigades, two aviation brigades, division artillery and headquarters that are all currently in Europe.

Riding on the outcome is the economic well-being of several rural communities in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, most pointedly Baumholder.

U.S. officials say there is no decision on Baumholder's fate.

"Anything to do with the [transformation] announcement... we simply don't have any more specific information. It would only be speculation," said Kim Walls, a spokeswoman for the Installation Management Agency-Europe.

However, Karl Peter Bruch, the interior minister for Rhineland-Palatinate, told Stars and Stripes that during meetings at the Pentagon in May, Department of Defense officials showed him the list of U.S. bases in Germany that will remain. Baumholder was not on it.

On his first visit to talk to Pentagon policy makers, including Raymond P. DuBois, undersecretary of defense for installations and environment — DOD officials showed him a list of surviving bases: the Ramstein Air Base and the Kaiserslautern Military Community complex, Spangdahlem Air Base and Baumholder, Bruch said.

But during the May follow-up visit, "Baumholder was not on it. We pointed out to him that Baumholder was missing."

An Army official at the Pentagon said she did not know of any list that Bruch had mentioned. A spokesman for DuBois did not respond to queries by deadline.



TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

H.D. Smith Barracks dominate both Baumholder's physical setting and its financial health. German officials say the base pumps about \$200 million into the local economy each year. If Baumholder closes, about 600 base employees would lose their jobs, and officials say those job losses could lead to far greater unemployment.

Catastrophic loss

If H.D. Smith Barracks, satellite installations, schools and four major housing complexes close, it would be "a catastrophe" for his town of 5,000, said Mayor Volkmar Pees.

The unemployment rate is about 9 percent for the county of Birkenfeld, which includes Baumholder, though local officials estimate the rate is substantially higher in the Baumholder area.

The departure of more than 5,000 soldiers, many of whom live on the economy, along with 600 German high-paying base jobs, would be an economic disaster, Pees said. Multiply those 600 jobs by a factor of four, Bruch said, calculating that about 2,400 local jobs — from retailers to contractors — would fall victim to the base closing.

The U.S. base at Baumholder pumps about \$200 million per year into the local economy, Bruch said during a Wednesday interview in Mainz. That economic injection is worth \$1.4 billion annually if all three major bases in the state — Baumholder, Ramstein Air Base and the Kaiserslautern Military Community — are included.

Despite Baumholder not being on the list of surviving bases, Pees, Bruch and other German officials remain optimistic that U.S. officials will take advantage of Baumholder's proximity to Ramstein.

The largest of the 1st AD bases in Germany — and the largest collection of combat-arms units outside the continental United States — Baumholder is home to the 2nd Brigade and Division Artillery.

Mixed signals

With President Bush's announcement last week of troop reductions in Europe, Baumholder may join a long list of U.S. bases in Germany closed since the early 1980s, including Bad Kreuznach, the former 1st AD headquarters.

The first transformation changes aren't scheduled to begin until 2006, and are projected to take a decade. German officials expected the plan to have a four-year window.

"We were relieved," Bruch said. "That larger window makes us more optimistic with the changing nature of warfare."

Just what will happen in Baum-

holder is far from clear. Basically, it comes down to reading tea leaves, and the Pentagon and Army have given mixed signals as to the base's fate.

Last year, Marine Gen. James Jones, commander of U.S. forces in Europe, told Stars and Stripes that construction funding — especially for housing — would cease at bases likely to close. Baumholder has a number of new housing renovation projects slated through 2006.

SEE BAUMHOLDER ON PAGE 7

German officials fighting departure

BY TERRY BOYD

Stars and Stripes

MAINZ, Germany — Of the four German states with military bases, Rhineland-Palatinate may have the most to lose in the Bush administration's proposed transformation of the U.S. military presence in Europe. Or at least the most to fight for.

Of the four states — Hessen, Rhineland-Palatinate, Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg — hosting most of the U.S. military presence, only Rhineland-Palatinate officials have put together a public campaign to convince U.S. policy makers to keep open its bases, including Baumholder and Spangdahlem Air Base.

So far, the state in southwestern Germany is one for one. Spangdahlem, near the border with Belgium, apparently will survive, while Baumholder, home to the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Armored Division, may close.

Bavaria appears to be the big winner in the transformation, with both Hofenfels and Grafenwöhr combat maneuver training centers remaining and a Striker Brigade going to Grafenwöhr. Other states, such as Hessen, can afford to

SEE FIGHT ON PAGE 7



Karl Peter Bruch

Messages of Support

★ God bless these men and women who are serving our country and the freedom loving people of the world, what they are doing will be long remembered. Our thoughts and prayers are with them, the POW's and the families of the heroes who have given their life in the most noble of all causes. D. M. Jenkins

Messages of Support

★ I am glad that you are fighting the bad rulers in Iraq. I hope that you are ok. Please try to do your best. Remember that everybody in America cares about you all. We don't know you all but we still love all of you. Thank you for my freedom. Love, M. Smith Age 9. Webster, NY

★ Hope this message finds you well. We are proud of all that you guys have accomplished. Still waiting to hear from you. Hope to soon. Love and miss you, Teresa and kids.

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Cis help new anthrax vaccine study

Government paying \$60 to participants

By Kimberly Heffling
The Associated Press

PORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — They can do it five of God's country — or for the \$60. Either way, soldiers vaccinated against anthrax have the opportunity to help future anthrax victims by donating their blood.

The government plans to develop an experimental treatment for anthrax from the blood of people vaccinated against it. Such a medicine has never been tested on people, but scientists think it has a good chance of working based on animal tests.

Federal health officials are aiming for an emergency stockpile that could treat about 2,700 people in case of another anthrax attack. Five people died from anthrax in 2001.

Lewis Long, a civilian readiness officer who pitched the plan to the troops this summer, said many may want to do it to protect their wives and children, who haven't had the vaccine.

But there is another reason, too. In a Fort Campbell gymnasium when troops in their Army greens were told they would get \$60 for a liter of their blood plasma, many whooped and holed. They can donate up to once a week.

For a young Joe that might need that extra cash, that's a significant amount," Long said.

Donor requirements

To donate plasma for the experimental anthrax treatment, a person must meet each of these requirements:

- Received at least four doses of anthrax vaccine.
- Received last dose of vaccine about two weeks ago.
- Be in good health.
- Pass a medical history screening, a physical examination and blood and urine testing.
- Not have HIV, hepatitis or syphilis.

Spc. Ian Cook, a 25-year-old father of two, said he took a pay cut to join the Army 18 months ago, and could use the money to help with household expenses. Donating blood four times a month could add \$240 to his \$1,550-a-month base salary. The potential to help people exposed to anthrax, "that's just a little bonus, I guess," said Cook, of Las Vegas.

Depending on the soldiers' response, the blood donor program could be spread within a few weeks to other military installations.

Fort Campbell, 50 miles north of Nashville, Tenn., was selected as the first site for the program because a high percentage of soldiers have been vaccinated against anthrax, said Col. John Grabenstein, deputy director for military vaccines at the Army surgeon general's office.

- Not use illegal drugs.
- Not be pregnant.
- Not have gotten any tattoos or non-sterile skin piercings within the past year.
- Not have spent long periods of times in the 1980s and the early to mid-1990s in countries where "mad cow" disease was found, such as France, United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Italy or Greece.

— The Associated Press

It's also near a federally approved plasma collection site in Clarksville, Tenn.

All troops deploying to Iraq, Afghanistan and other U.S. Central Command countries, as well as Korea, are required to get anthrax shots. Since 1998, 1.2 million troops have been vaccinated against anthrax.

To make the new medication, called anthrax immune globulin, or AIG, scientists will use antibodies, protective proteins from the soldiers' plasma, the watery part of the blood.

"We think there is a good chance that AIG would help improve survival in patients with severe anthrax diseases, but we don't know for sure," said Dr. Clare Dykewicz, a medical epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which is running the program.

Fight: Germans trying to save Baumholder

FIGHT, FROM PAGE 6

lose bases such as Darmstadt and Wiesbaden because they are based in heavily developed urban areas and will be quickly absorbed, said a German official who asked not to be identified.

Baumholder, by comparison, is one of the most undeveloped parts of Germany, where jobs are scarce and the unemployment rate is relatively high at about 9 percent.

"Reinland-Pfalz has spent 1.5 billion euros of state money on base reuse projects," the official said.

Those efforts have mostly been successful. Hahn Air Base, for example, is now Hahn Airport, a hub for Ryanair, a discount carrier, and a major job creator, the official said. Zweibrücken Air Base is now the largest outlet mall in Germany, he added. Others former U.S. bases such as Sembach Air Base and the former 1st Air Headquarters at Bad Kreuznach, sit unused.

With 850 properties — including five major air bases — handed back to the Germans by the U.S. Defense Department since 1990, "we're running out of options on Baumholder."

Rheinland-Palatinate officials began putting together a strategy just after the Bush administration announced transformation plans in April 2001. Their assumption, the source said, was that Ramstein would remain as the United States' main European transport hub.

So the main thrust was to convince U.S. defense officials that the most practical bases from which to deploy large numbers of troops would those closest to the global air network.

The centerpiece of the plan to convince U.S. officials to keep remaining bases involves an affordable build-to-lease plan to improve family housing and overall quality of life while freeing up money for essential military projects.

In an effort headed up by Karl Peter Bruch, Rheinland-Palatinate's interior minister, German officials are trying to recruit private investors for a private/public partnership to build or upgrade U.S. facilities, including housing units at Ramstein, Spangdahlem and Baumholder. Under the plan, the United States in return would commit to long-term leases on the property rather than having to budget large, one-time construction projects or renovation costs.

The goal is to line up about \$130 million in financing to build 500 units, according to German officials familiar with the plan. The Air Force gave the state a two-page list of unfunded projects including warehouses, a mail terminal, fuel depots and administration buildings that could be built under the program, said the German source.

The arrangement would allow the United States not only to build better family housing — abandoning stairwell floor plans dating back to the 1950s — for troops, but also U.S. costs by using more efficient private contractors to do the work.

In turn, the long-term leases would give investors a reasonable return.

Part of the effort is trying to cut bureaucracy and getting the federal government to change laws that forbid private investors from building on federal land used for the military, German officials told Stars and Stripes.

German officials still have to present a final plan to the Pentagon, Bruch said in an interview Wednesday.

On Thursday, U.S. European Command's deputy commander said Spangdahlem Air Base will survive — along with Ramstein — as a replacement for Rhein-Main Air Base passenger hub in Frankfurt.

"The German government is actually allowing some funds to go to Spangdahlem to help us improve it so we can move out of Rhein-Main," said Gen. Charles F. Wald at a press conference at EUCOM headquarters in Stuttgart. "Same thing with Ramstein, so both of those bases we intend to keep open."

But so far, there's no word on Baumholder.

Baumholder: Reading mixed signals on U.S. realignment

BAUMHOLDER, FROM PAGE 6

In 2002, Army Secretary Thomas White stated that the 1st AD may swap places with a Striker Brigade from Fort Lewis, Wash. Strikers — relatively speedy wheeled, armored vehicles capable of carrying different types of armaments depending on mission — are more quickly deployable by aircraft than M1A1 Abrams tanks.

Testifying in March 2003 before the House Armed Services Committee, Gen. Montgomery Meigs, former U.S. Army Europe commander, called Baumholder "the likely site of a Striker Brigade" because it is close to Ramstein, the Air Force's staging point for both European Command and Central Command operations.

But now, that Striker brigade appears to be headed to Grafenwöhr Training Area, 400 miles across Germany, near the border with the Czech Republic — a move favored by the German federal government, Bruch said.

Earlier this year, Maj. Gary Tallman, Striker Brigade spokesman at the Pentagon, told Stars and Stripes that Baumholder was not on the list of bases to receive the Striker units.

U.S. officials at Baumholder declined to comment for this story, citing guidance from Installation Management Agency officials banning interviews related to transformation.

However, public Army documents and news reports list Baumholder's main strong points including:

■ Its location about 40 miles northwest of Ramstein, which U.S. officials have said will remain. Also nearby is the Kaiserstuhl Military Community, which is the logistic hub for U.S. forces based in Europe.

■ At about 25,000 acres, the third-largest maneuver/training area in Germany, behind those in Grafenwöhr and Hohenfels. However, unlike those training facilities, the Baumholder site has no high-tech capabilities.

■ A just-completed \$13 million, state-of-the-art motor pool for the 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, and two updated motor pools for the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment.



IGNACIO RUBALCAVA/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Inspectors review the schedule at Baumholder's Installation Staging Area as M-58 track vehicles wait to enter the next inspection point prior to the 1st Armored Division's deployment last spring to Iraq. German officials in Baumholder hope that the base's proximity to Ramstein Air Base, will be a compelling reason for the United States to keep the base open.

- The largest Army dental clinic in Europe.
- An airfield with a 572-meter, or 1,800-foot-plus runway — easily long enough to accommodate C-130 transport aircraft.

At that airfield, which currently is unused, Baumholder is getting a platoon of unmanned aerial vehicles, or UAVs. The division-level intelligence assets will grow to a company-sized elements, according to U.S. Army Europe officials.

The small UAVs, called Hunters, currently are based at Fort Hood, Texas, and are scheduled to arrive at several bases in Europe later this year, or early in 2005.

The UAV unit may or may not be the harbinger of change at Baumholder. Bruch said he's confident that the Pentagon is, at the behest of German officials, "making an earnest attempt" to find a use for Baumholder, including light, rapidly deployable units that also could use the training area.

In Baumholder, local officials are hoping for a death-row review in the form of the U.S. presidential elections.

"I'm reading a book on [Sen.] John Kerry that's this," Pees said, opening his thumb and forefinger to a two-inch gap.

Kerry, he said, seems "more interested in Europe."

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Air Force general picked to head PACOM

Martin would be only the second non-Navy officer to head command in its 57-year history

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO
AND JULIANA GITTNER
Stars and Stripes

For the first time in its history, an Air Force general will head the U.S. military's largest geographic command, officials said Friday.

Pending Senate confirmation, Gen. Gregory S. Martin, currently head of the Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, will become only the second non-Navy officer to command the United States Pacific Command since its 1947 inception.

Martin would replace Adm. Thomas F. Fargo, who served as commander of Pacific Fleet before assuming command of PACOM in 2002.

Officially, PACOM called the appointment of an Air Force general "noteworthy," but not remarkable.

"U.S. Pacific Command is like all joint commands," said Lt. Col. Jay Steuck, PACOM chief of mission operations. "It can be commanded by qualified officers from any service."

But privately, officers throughout the Pacific region expressed surprise at the announcement.

One high-ranking officer in South Korea speculated whether

Pacific region force realignment plans had anything to do with the appointment, noting Martin's recent leadership of the materials command. If big changes to the number and location of bases are indeed coming, the officer said, what better person to have in charge than a logistician?

Martin, who began his career as a combat pilot, also has commanded several fighter wings and served as the Air Force director of operational requirements and principal deputy to the assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition.

Capt. John Haynes, chief of public affairs at Misawa Air Base, Japan, was thrilled to hear Martin would be taking PACOM's helm. Haynes served tours at Aviano, Italy, and Incirlik, Turkey, when Martin was commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe from March 2000 to August 2003. Haynes met Martin at Incirlik when the general visited for Thanksgiving lunch with the troops.

"I was extremely impressed with his leadership and the policies he enacted while he was the USAFE commander," Haynes said, emphasizing he wasn't speaking for the command.

Other regional command officials declined to comment.

"We aren't going to comment on a topic like that. We are not in a position to comment because we don't question policy, and that's the decision of the president of the United States and the secretary of defense," said Jon Nylander, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Japan spokesman, when asked the significance of the announcement.

Air Force officials in South Korea and Japan referred questions, variously, to PACOM or Pacific Air Forces, or simply read from the official PACOM statement regarding the appointment.

Nonetheless, since 1947 all but eight days of PACOM's history have been under the command of a Navy admiral. Of the 22 previous commanders, the lone exception was Army Lt. Gen. Harold T. Fields, who served as commander from July 11-19, 1994.

Though not tagged as an interim commander, Fields held the position for only one week after Adm. Charles R. Larson was transferred to head the U.S. Naval Academy in the wake of the Tailhook scandal.

PACOM officials pointed out the shift in command to an Air Force officer isn't unprecedented. Most major combat commands historically have been commanded by one service, but in the past

PACOM commanders since January 1947

Adm. John H. Towers - Jan. 1, 1947 - Feb. 28, 1947
Adm. Louis E. Denfeld - Feb. 28, 1947 - Dec. 3, 1947
Adm. DeWitt C. Ramsey - Jan. 12, 1948 - April 30, 1949
Adm. Arthur W. Radford - April 30, 1949 - July 10, 1953
Adm. Felix B. Stump - July 10, 1953 - July 31, 1958
Adm. Harry D. Felt - July 31, 1958 - June 30, 1964
Adm. Ulysses S. Grant Sharp - June 30, 1964 - July 31, 1968
Adm. John S. McCain Jr. - July 31, 1968 - Sept. 1, 1972
Adm. Noel A.M. Gayler - Sept. 1, 1972 - Aug. 30, 1976
Adm. Maurice F. Weisner - Aug. 30, 1976 - Oct. 31, 1979
Adm. Robert L.J. Long - Oct. 31, 1979 - July 1, 1983
Adm. William J. Crowe Jr. - July 1, 1983 - Sept. 18, 1985
Adm. Ronald J. Hays - Sept. 18, 1985 - Sept. 30, 1988
Adm. Huntington Hardisty - Sept. 30, 1988 - March 1, 1991
Adm. Charles R. Larson - March 1, 1991 - July 11, 1994
Army Lt. Gen. Harold T. Fields - July 11, 1994 - July 19, 1994
Adm. Richard C. Macke - July 19, 1994 - Jan. 31, 1996
Adm. Joseph W. Prueher - Jan. 31, 1996 - Feb. 20, 1999
Adm. Dennis C. Blair - Feb. 20, 1999 - May 2, 2002
Adm. Thomas B. Fargo - May 2, 2002 - present

Source: PACOM

few years, that trend has changed as the military moves toward more joint activities.

Southern Command had 45 successive Army leaders until Marine Corps Gen. Charles E. Wilhelm took the reins in 1997, followed by fellow Marine Gen. Peter Pace in 2000. Command returned to the Army with current

commander Gen. James T. Hill.

Since 1952, all but two European Command commanders were Army. The two exceptions were Air Force generals.

Greg Tye and Jennifer Svan contributed to this report.

E-mail Joseph Giordano at: giordano@stripes.osd.mil or Juliana Gittner at: gittner@stripes.osd.mil

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Laying the groundwork for new positioning

BY WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

In the weeks prior to President Bush's proclamation that 70,000 U.S. troops would pull out of bases in places such as Germany and South Korea, American officials were quietly negotiating where to put new posts in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The new bases would be closer to hot spots than current U.S. installations and would include skeletal positions with fluctuating troop numbers as well as permanent bases, according to Pentagon thinking. But they would also, according to a defense analyst and reporter from Europe, include silos for a planned theater missile shield.

U.S. generals made two telling diplomatic visits last month.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, visited Bulgaria on July 29 and 30 to discuss "a wide variety of issues" with leaders there, including the possibility of stationing forces.

At the time, about 1,000 U.S. troops were at the Novo Selo Training Area in Bulgaria for a training exercise known as Bulwark '04.

"We certainly did not make any decisions, but we had pretty extensive discussions on potential military basing here," Myers said afterward, appearing with his Bulgarian counterpart, Gen. Nikola Ivanov Kolev.

"The United States is discussing its military posture around the world with many countries," Myers said, according to a transcript. "Those consultations are ongoing. No decisions have been made yet, and all I will say is that the United States appreciates our partnership with Bulgaria."



Myers



LISA HORN/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Wenthe, left, and Bulgarian Pvt. Atanas Kovachev train during an exercise earlier this month at the Novo Selo Training Area in Bulgaria. In late July, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, U.S. Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, visited Bulgaria to discuss the possibility of basing U.S. forces there.

No further public announcements followed, according to Raisa Yordanova, a U.S. Embassy press official in Sofia.

Just before Myers visited Bulgaria, the head of U.S. Central Command, Gen. John P. Abizaid, visited Uzbekistan's Defense Minister Kadyr Gulyamov and Foreign Minister Sadik Safaev on "issues of bilateral cooperation and regional security," according to an embassy release.

Embassy spokesman Michael Reinert said that the United States had nothing public to say on new bases in Uzbekistan. But he added that both sides were happy with the Americans' current use of an air base in Khanaabad to support the mission in neighboring Afghanistan.

The recent visits follow months of talks between John R. Bolton, U.S. undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, and officials in Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary. Bolton is reportedly pursuing mis-

sile silos and an additional radar ship for a theater shield against attacks from the Middle East.

A Pentagon spokesman cautioned that no timetables or destinations for new bases have been announced. Nonetheless, analysts see a new defense topography emerging from the map.

Some new bases would be near or inside the Balkans yet closer to the Middle East, said Otfried Nassauer, director of the Berlin Information Center for Transatlantic Security. Nassauer said the new, smaller bases also could be used in case of an emergency in the Black Sea or Transcaucasus countries.

Nassauer said that he doubts Poland, the Czech Republic or Hungary would see huge troop deployments because they're neither close enough to the Middle East when compared with Germany nor far enough from Russia to avoid angst.

"The disadvantages would be too big politically, and you

couldn't gain enough," Nassauer said. "... It doesn't make much sense."

Instead, he predicts the missile shield would better fit places like Poland, the Czech Republic or Hungary, while more southerly Bulgaria and Romania could see greater troop numbers without threatening Russia.

Uzbekistan with its proximity to Afghanistan is also a logical place to expand, Nassauer said. Africa, U.S. officials have hinted, remains another option.

The Pentagon has said new bases would not serve as replacements for those lost in an exit of the 1st Armored Division and 1st Infantry Division from Germany. Instead, they would house lighter forces or serve as "lily pads" for soldiers to skip across en route to missions in places like the Middle East.

"Nobody intends to deploy an armored brigade somewhere in Africa," Nassauer said.

E-mail reporter Ward Sanderson at: sandersonw@ml.eastripes.com

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www.defendamerica.mil/forms/CallAction.html

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

★ We thank you for fighting for our freedom and we are very proud of you. God's angels is with you, we're praying, we love you and God Bless You! Wies

★ The Code of Conduct, Article VI: I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom,

responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles, which make my country free. I will trust in my God and the United States of America. GO FIGHT WIN! J. Voland

★ Hi Josh, Just want you to know that we all think of you everyday, and everyone is praying for you. Your cousin Kyle is in Kuwait. Mike may be on his

way too. We are so proud of all of you. Thank you for your sacrifices and devotion to our country. God bless you, and God bless America. Mom.

★ Dear Craig Hillard, I just wanted to tell you, that YOU and the other soldiers are in my thoughts and in my prayers every day and every night. Take care of yourself and I hope to hear from you soon. Love and Support, A. Marinelli

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Battle of the Bands

Top 2 USAREUR bands to compete in D.C.

PHOTOS BY RAYMOND T. CONWAY

Stars and Stripes

Top left: Soldiers from the band Black Box 60 perform at the U.S. Army Europe's annual Battle of the Bands held Saturday in Katterbach, Germany. Seven bands competed for the title of best band in Europe, which Black Box 60 won. The top two Army bands will represent Europe in the all-Army competition in Washington, D.C.

Top right: Singer Colin Moore belts out a tune for Silent Majority, a group of airmen from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. Though the group took second place in the competition, its members will not be able to represent the Army. The Hohenfels-based band Busted Amber, though taking third at the Katterbach competition, will represent the Army at the Washington event.

Right: Miegan Filhiol, guitarist for the metal band Silent Majority, performs Metallica's "For Whom the Bell Tolls."

Left: Kyeen Downes plays guitar for the Ansbach-based band Just Add Water.



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IN THE STATES

Kerry, Bush camps trade barbs over ads

Polls show attacks on military record hurting Kerry, who files complaint with FEC

BY DAVID ESPO

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attacks on John Kerry's war record may be beginning to have an impact, polls suggest, amid raised voices and new TV ads on a subject at least temporarily dominating debate in the close U.S. presidential race.

Democrats are laboring to deflect the questioning of Kerry's record with fresh ads touting his fitness for national command, even as the White House mocks the Massachusetts senator as "losing his cool" over claims he lied to win military medals in Vietnam.

Kerry wasn't going to let such claims pass, spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter shot back on Friday, saying, "John Kerry is a fighter and he doesn't tolerate lies from others."

The anti-Kerry group that provoked the furor with a recent commercial distributed a second ad to the news media and said it would begin airing it next week in Pennsylvania, Nevada and New Mexico. The ad mixes clips of a youthful Kerry talking about war atrocities in testimony to Congress in 1971 with images of veterans condemning his remarks.

The Kerry campaign filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission that alleged the group behind the ad was illegal-



Kerry

ly coordinating its efforts with the Bush-Cheney campaign. It cited "recent press reports" and the group's own statements.

The Bush campaign denied the allegation, as did the organization that aired the ad. Campaigns often file complaints with the FEC, but the commission rarely intervenes quickly enough to alter the course of a race.

The intense late-August back-and-forth underscored the closeness of the race for the White House and came as polls offered the first hint that the questioning of Kerry's medal-winning service in the Vietnam War — allegations that he strongly condemned this week as lies — were taking a political toll.

One poll found that more than half the voters questioned had seen or heard of an ad by Swift Boat Veterans For Truth that accused Kerry of lying about events that earned him five medals a generation ago.

The University of Pennsylvania's National Annenberg Election Survey also found that 44 percent of self-described independent voters found the ad at least somewhat

believable.

Separately, a CBS poll found a sharp drop in Kerry's support among veterans since the end of the Democratic National Convention that highlighted his war record.

Polls after the convention indicated Kerry had made considerable progress toward the campaign's goal of establishing him as a battle-tested veteran ready to assume command in an era of terrorism. Several veterans who served with him have campaigned alongside him, strongly supporting his combat record and calling him a hero.

In a new commercial that officials said was filmed Thursday, the Democratic Party showed retired Air Force Gen. Merrill A. McPeak saying he had endorsed President George W. Bush four years ago but was backing Kerry now.

"Nothing is more important to me than protecting America," says McPeak, a fighter pilot in Vietnam who rose to become Air Force chief of staff during the first Persian Gulf War in 1991.

"John Kerry has the strength and com-



Bush

mon sense we need in a commander in chief."

That message is sharply at odds with the image portrayed in the anti-Kerry ad that the nominee denounced Thursday when he said Bush was relying on front groups to "do his dirty work."

"I do think that Senator Kerry losing his cool should not be an excuse for him to lash out at the president with false and baseless attacks," White House spokesman Scott McClellan told reporters in Crawford, Texas, on Friday.

"We've already said we weren't involved in any way in these ads," he said. "We've made that clear."

Kerry's campaign then trumpeted a political flier from Florida advertising a "pro-USA political rally" that appeared to show the veterans' group and the local Bush-Cheney campaign as sponsors.

Records show that Bob Perry, a Houston homebuilder who is helping to finance the anti-Kerry commercials, was well-known to Bush to earn an invitation to visit the then-Texas governor.

"I hope all goes well with you," Bush said in an April 15, 1997, letter. "Should you ever come to Austin, please come and say hello."

Bush wrote in response to a letter asking him to veto legislation that would have placed new restrictions on title companies if it made it out of the Texas Legislature.

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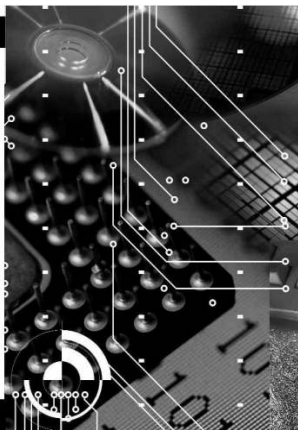
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Bush says public schools are not making the grade

BY PETE YOST

The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — In a back-to-school message, President George W. Bush says that while many public schools aren't making the grade, he should get high marks from voters for the No Child Left Behind Act.

"We are leaving behind the broken system that shuffled children from grade to grade, even when they were not learning the basics," Bush said Saturday in his weekly radio address.

"We're requiring regular testing, providing extra help for children falling behind. We're giving information and options to parents. We are holding schools accountable for the progress of every child."

He acknowledged that "some schools have catching up to do," but said the federal government was making extra money available to schools that need the most help. To help disadvantaged students, Bush said the government had boosted aid to \$12.3 billion, an increase of 41 percent since he took office.

Bush said one federal grant went to Asheville City Schools in North Carolina, the home district of Ira B. Jones Elementary School.

"Two years ago, Jones did not meet standards under the new law. So district leaders used more than \$200,000 in federal aid to help Jones hire a reading coach, train additional teachers, increase parent involvement, and start an extended-day program for struggling students," Bush said.

"This past school year, their efforts paid off. Jones met its target for yearly progress. This is how a fourth grade teacher described her reaction: 'We screamed and yelled. We were absolutely thrilled.'"

J.B. Buntz, a former education adviser to Democratic

North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley, said that while the state welcomes the federal money, state and local officials "would be amazed to hear the president taking credit for their progress."

Buxton said the progress stems from a 10-year effort to improve accountability, teacher quality and early childhood classroom preparation.

Buxton also credited a commitment by the governor in the past three years to reduce classroom size and a push by local officials to promote parental involvement and increase ongoing training for teachers.

Bush and Democratic challenger Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts have been running close nationally on the question of how hard to do a better job on education.

Last week, an interest group, funded in part by the nation's largest teachers' union, launched \$2.5 million worth of new commercials assailing Bush's education reform law.

Committees for Quality Education's 30-second ads claim the 2001 law is shortchanging the nation's schools by wasting money on bureaucracy, leaving classrooms overcrowded with fewer teachers and out-of-date books and materials.

Even though Kerry voted for No Child Left Behind, the commercials promote the Massachusetts senator saying he would add 500,000 new teachers and reduce class sizes to provide students with individual attention.

Kerry says Bush and Republicans in Congress have shortchanged the states by a combined \$27 billion for the law, and he claims he would "fully fund" it by rolling back tax cuts for wealthier citizens.

Bush's campaign argues that federal education spending is at record levels under Bush, and Republicans say schools have enough money to satisfy the law's requirements.

Inmates stage standoff

OLMITO, Texas — A standoff with 11 inmates at a maximum-security jail escalated into violence Friday, wounding two guards and the inmates as a SWAT team used tear gas and pepper spray.

It was the second outbreak of violence at Carrizales-Rucker Detention Center this summer.

The hour-long standoff began about 3 p.m. when the inmates refused to return to their cells after a recreational period, Sheriff's Capt. Ronaldo Rodriguez said. The prisoners barricaded their way with bedding and other materials and began breaking televisions and phones to use as weapons.

The SWAT team was called in after negotiations failed, Rodriguez said.

The inmates were to be arraigned Thursday on charges of rioting in a jail facility and criminal mischief, Rodriguez told The Brownsville Herald for its Saturday editions.

He said 11 inmates were protesting a lockdown in place since Aug. 14 as prison staff investigated the beating of an inmate in their dorm, who remains in a coma.

Rodriguez said the entire jail, which holds about 630 inmates, would be under lockdown now as the investigation continues.

Olmito is about 10 miles from Brownsville in southern Texas.

From The Associated Press



Talk show host Oprah Winfrey is joined Wednesday by fellow Chicago jurors at the end of a trial that turned into a media frenzy because of the billionaire. Winfrey plans to bring her experience as a juror to her show.

Oprah to bring 'eye-opener' jury experience to television

BY ANNA JOHNSON

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Oprah Winfrey plans to bring her experience as a juror on a murder trial to her TV show next week, saying her three days in the jury box were a "reality check."

Winfrey was one of 12 jurors who convicted a Chicago man of murder Wednesday after a routine trial that turned into a media magnet because of the billionaire.

"I think it was an eye-opener for all of us," Winfrey said in the Cook County Criminal Courts Building lobby, flanked by other jurors. "It's a huge reality check; there's a whole other world going on out there. ... When your life in-

tersects with others in this way, it is forever changed."

Jurors deliberated for more than two hours before convicting 27-year-old Dion Coleman of first-degree murder in the February 2002 shooting death of Walter Holley, 23.

Coleman is scheduled to be sentenced next month and could face 45 years to life in prison.

Winfrey, who was paid \$17.20 a day, said she plans to do a show next week with other jurors.

More than a dozen reporters and sketch artists filled the seats in the cramped courtroom. Winfrey called all the attention distracting.

Before she was chosen for the jury Monday, Winfrey said she

thought she was too opinionated to be picked. But afterward she said she was fair.

Prosecutors said Coleman and Holley had argued over a counterfeit \$50 bill, and Coleman shot Holley 11 times. Defense attorneys argued that several of the state's witnesses were not reliable.

Defense lawyer Cynthia Brown said she had thought Winfrey would be a good juror because she has been a lawsuit defendant — in a 1998 defamation case brought by Texas cattlemen — and might better understand what it's like to be accused of something. A jury exonerated Winfrey.

Associated Press writer Mike Colias contributed to this report.

Fears of gridlock and terrorism have some New Yorkers running

BY ERIN MCCLAM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — New Yorkers pride themselves on their ability to handle almost anything. But many city dwellers have decided one obstacle is just too much — the upcoming Republican National Convention.

For these New Yorkers, the prospect of utter gridlock combined with the persistent specter of terrorism is finally enough to make them get out town.

Sharon Fein, 26, has placed an ad online to rent her apartment on West 36th Street in Manhattan, just blocks from the site of the convention, for \$2,500 for the week — a profit large enough to cover a month's rent.

"It'll be such a hassle," said Fein, who works for a Manhattan custom clothier. "And a lot of my clients will be out of the area anyway. I just feel like the streets are going to be so crowded."

While police have pledged to aim for business as usual in Manhattan, most New Yorkers expect a nightmare of tangled traffic.

Other city dwellers are being chased away by the threat of terrorism, compounded by new alerts issued in early August.

Counterterrorism authorities,



Sharon Fein leans on the balcony ledge in her midtown Manhattan apartment, near the site of the Republican National Convention. Fein and many other New Yorkers have decided to leave the city during the convention, citing expected traffic nightmares and terrorism concerns.

as they did for the Democratic convention in Boston in July, promise unprecedented security. At broker Corcoran Group of the Hamptons, a steady stream of callers have asked about renting a home for the week of the convention, said agent Diane Saatchi.

"They have strange notions — that it's possible to get a one-week rental in the first place, and that it would be affordable," she said.

Still, Saatchi said, people are willing to give up their homes in the Hamptons to accompany the Manhattan exodus during convention week.

The state of Maine is trying to capitalize on the exodus — running TV ads featuring serene rivers and enticing vistas.

Craig's List, a popular online network of forums and classifieds, is teeming with ads for people hoping to make a quick buck — in some cases upward of \$10,000 — by renting out their apartments as they flee the city.

One of them is Fein. She's planning to spend the week with her family in the Upper New York town of Stone Ridge.



Haley Waldman, 8, is shown in her Communion gown in this undated family photo.

Health keeps child from Communion

BY JOHN CURRAN
The Associated Press

BRIELLE, N.J. — An 8-year-old girl who suffers from a rare digestive disorder and cannot eat wheat has had her first Holy Communion declared invalid because the wafer contained no wheat, violating Roman Catholic doctrine.

Now, Haley Waldman's mother is pushing the Diocese of Trenton and the Vatican to make an exception, saying the girl's condition should not exclude her from the sacrament, which commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ before his crucifixion. The mother believes a rice Communion wafer would suffice.

"It's just not a viable option. How does it corrupt the tradition of the Last Supper? It's just rice versus wheat," said Elizabeth Pelly-Waldman.

Girl can't digest wheat wafer; church won't bend

Church doctrine holds that Communion wafers, like the bread served at the Last Supper, must have at least some unleavened wheat. Church leaders are reluctant to change anything about the sacrament.

"This is not an issue to be determined at the diocesan or parish level, but has already been decided for the Roman Catholic Church throughout the world by Vatican authority," Trenton Bishop John M. Smith said in a statement last week.

Haley was diagnosed with celiac sprue disease when she was 5. The disorder occurs in people with a genetic intolerance of gluten, a food protein contained in wheat and other grains.

When consumed by celiac sufferers, gluten damages the lining

of the small intestine, blocking nutrient absorption and leading to vitamin deficiencies, bone-thinning, and sometimes gastrointestinal cancer.

The diocese has told Haley's mother that the girl can receive a low-gluten wafer, or just drink wine at Communion, but that anything without gluten does not qualify. Pelly-Waldman rejected the offer, saying her child could be harmed by even a small amount of the substance.

Some Catholic churches allow no-gluten hosts, while others do not, said Elaine Monarch, executive director of the Celiac Disease Foundation, a California-based support group for sufferers.

"It is an undue hardship on a person who wants to practice their religion and needs to compromise their health to do so," Monarch said.

The church has similar rules for Communion wine. For alcoholics, the church allows a substitute for wine under some circumstances; however, the drink must still

be fermented from grapes and contain some alcohol.

Haley, who has brown, haired tomboy who loves surfing and hates wearing dresses, realizes the consequences of taking a wheat wafer. "I'm on a gluten-free diet because I can't have wheat. I could die," she said last week.

Last year, as the third grader approached Holy Communion age in this Jersey Shore town, her mother told officials at St. Denis Catholic Church in Manasquan that the girl could not have the standard host.

After the church's pastor refused to allow a substitute, a priest at a nearby parish volunteered to offer one, and in May, Haley wore a white Communion dress and received the sacrament alongside her mother, who had not taken Communion since she herself was diagnosed with the disease.

Last month, the diocese told the priest that the church would not validate Haley's sacrament because of the substitute wafer.

N.Y. official objects to new alcohol machine

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It hasn't even arrived, and already some people want it banned.

A machine that combines alcohol and oxygen to create an inhalable alcoholic mist is set to debut in New York City this weekend, but Westchester County Executive Andrew Spano wants a local or state ban against it because he worries it will attract underage drinkers.

Spano said the Alcohol Without Liquid Machine would harm efforts to drive down underage teen drinking and driving under the influence.

"This is really attractive to youngsters," Spano told the Journal News of Westchester in Thursday's editions.

"It's portable, and it will wind up at parties with kids. We don't want it in Westchester, and in fact, we don't want it in the state," Spano added.

Westchester has a chronic underage drinking problem, and recently enlisted the help of a Justice Department contractor, the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, to investigate the problem.

Over the past 18 months or so, teen drinking in Westchester has led to at least one party death, some spectacles of widespread

drunkenness at school events and some police raids on home drinking parties.

The machine, created in England and already in use in other parts of the world, has users wear a mask and breathe in the alcoholic vapor. Promoters praise it for inducing a sense of well-being and say it doesn't lead to hangovers.

The machine is set to show up at the Trust Lounge in Manhattan on Friday. Its American distributor is Spirit Partners, of North Carolina. Kevin Morse of Spirit told the newspaper, "It's just a fun new way for adults to experience alcohol."

He said the machines were being sold to bars and individuals, at a cost between \$3,000 and \$3,600.

"A lot of people haven't seen the machine yet and are acting over a lot of rumors," he said.

No bars in Westchester have bought the machine, but Spano said his concern was that any venue offering it would have a difficult time keeping track of how much alcohol a customer is using.

Spano isn't the only elected official to be concerned about the machines. Suffolk County Legislator Jon Cooper had said last month he wanted to keep them out of that county, and that the county Legislature would be discussing it at upcoming meetings.



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McDonald's Happy Meals mark a quarter century

BY MATT SEDENSKY
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Bob Bernstein's 9-year-old son ate the same cereal from the same box every morning and stared at the packaging so intently, it gave Bernstein, an advertising executive, a great idea. "I got to think," Bernstein recalled from his office at Bernstein-Rein Advertising Inc., "kids want something to do while they're eating."

And so the McDonald's Happy Meal, a huge monogram for the fast-food company, was born, pairing a child-size meal with a tiny toy. The product, tested for two years, went into national release 25 years ago.

Happy Meals lure millions of children to McDonald's Corp. restaurants, and also bring in sales from parents who pick up a Big Mac or Chicken McNuggets for themselves when they stop in. Happy Meals are served at 31,000 restaurants in more than 100 countries and have made McDonald's the world's biggest distributor of toys.

Marketing experts agree, it was brilliant.

"Happy Meals proved that you could actually 'brand' a meal and make kids harass their parents for it," said Adam Hanft, president of Hanft Raboy & Partners, a

New York advertising and marketing firm.

Exactly as Bernstein had planned.

"My feeling was if you get the children to think about McDonald's, mom would bring them there," he said.

What set the meal apart was the

ketting Toolkit for Growing Businesses."

"But with the advent of the Happy Meal, it also became a very convenient toy store," Lipe said.

Bernstein's firm had been working with McDonald's franchisees for 10 years when he was challenged to create a promotion that would bring children back under the golden arches.

He holds the patent for the product's packaging and a bronze Happy Meal in his office — a gift from McDonald's on the meal's 10th anniversary — thanks him "for bringing the Happy Meal, a bold idea, to the McDonald's system."

Still, McDonald's credits Dick Brams, its former advertising manager in St. Louis, as "Father of the Happy Meal." He asked Bernstein to develop a children's meal concept, McDonald's says.

The Happy Meal — with a burger, fries, soft drink, toy and cookies (no longer included) — debuted in St. Louis, Kansas City, Phoenix and Las Vegas in 1977. It was tested in four other markets before being released nationally in the summer of 1979.



way it paired food and entertainment — an idea later advanced with McDonald's addition of play areas.

"Up until that point, McDonald's was just a restaurant," said Jay Lipe, a marketing consultant who authored "The Mar-

Low-carb food craze may be thinning out

BY MONICA SOTO OUCHI
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — Is the low-carb diet revolution toast? At a time when Atkins and South Beach have pervaded the national consciousness, local and national grocery stores express concern that interest in the low-carb lifestyle may have plateaued.

At Fred Meyer grocery stores, sales of low-carb products featured in its nutrition departments have dipped since May, while similar products sold in other aisles are selling moderately well.

The grocery chain declines to give exact figures, but one thing is certain: "People are buying less again," said Mary Loftin, spokeswoman for Fred Meyer stores. "They're making big of hoagie sandwiches."

The drop in interest appears true for other food, drug and mass-merchandise stores nationwide.

According to market research firm ACNielsen, first-quarter sales of carb-conscious products, excluding Wal-Mart, rose a whopping 122.4 percent over the fourth quarter of 2003 to \$402.9 million. But growth slowed in the second quarter, with sales at \$515.3 million, a 27.9 percent rise when compared with the quarter before.

Reasons for the slowdown vary, depending upon whom you ask. Some retail experts say the market was deluged with too many products at once; oth-

ers cite studies showing that interest in the diet has reached its peak.

While the percentage of those on a low-carb diet has remained steady the past six months at 11-12 percent of the U.S. adult population, the percentage of low-carb lifestyle consumers — those who merely restrict their carbs — has dropped steadily, from 32 percent of U.S. adults in April to 21 percent in July, according to market research firm Opinion Dynamics.

Matt Wiatt, who heads marketing for Atkins Nutritional, said grocery stores saw a mass influx of low-carb products during the first six months of the year as large food manufacturers jumped into the game. (At a Food Marketing Institute trade show in May, three-fourths of the new products introduced by small and large food manufacturers carried low-carb labels.) With too many products in the marketplace, Wiatt said he expects to see a shakeout.

Robert McMath, founder and chairman emeritus of Ann Arbor, Mich.-based NewProductWorks, a product-development consulting firm, considers the low-carb diet a trend like many others.

He remembers when Americans shunned salt. "I'm 73," McMath said. "I have to tell you, I've seen an awful lot of things come and go, and America has a very short attention span. The hottest word in the American language is 'new.'"

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IN THE WORLD

Bangladesh bombs kill 14 and injure hundreds at rally

BY FARID HOSSAIN
The Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh — A series of bombs exploded at an opposition rally in Bangladesh's capital Saturday, killing at least 14 people and injuring hundreds, witnesses and news reports said.

The blasts occurred as the main opposition leader, Sheikh Hasina, was addressing the rally from atop a truck outside her Awami League party's headquarters in central Dhaka. She was unhurt, her party said.

At least 14 people were killed and more than 300 injured, including senior opposition members, United Nations of Bangladesh reported.

The death toll could increase as some of the injured were in critical condition, hospital doctors said, adding that one opposition

member, Ivy Rahman, had lost her legs.

No one claimed responsibility for the blasts, but Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil claimed they targeted Hasina. Visibly shaken, Hasina crouched low in the truck soon after the first blast, a witness said.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia condemned the "dastardly attack on a political rally," and said her government will try to find those responsible. "People were covered with blood. Many injured were crying for help," said Mohammad Yasin, a rickshaw driver near the scene of the blasts.

"It was so ghastly and so terrible that I've no words to describe," said Farook Khan, an opposition lawmaker who was standing close to Hasina.

"It seemed to me that some of the bombs were thrown from mul-



AP photos

Above: Bangladeshi main opposition leader Sheikh Hasina speaks minutes before a series of bomb blasts in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Saturday. Right: An Awami League activist cries after the attack. At least 14 people were killed and hundreds hurt, including senior opposition members.

tivity buildings near the scene," he said, estimating that at least 15,000 people were at the rally when the explosions happened.

Doctors at Dhaka's state-run hospital appealed for blood and said they were overwhelmed with the arrival of so many injured peo-



ple.

Angry opposition supporters smashed or burned dozens of passing vehicles to protest the attack. Police fired tear gas to disperse the rampaging crowd, witnesses said.

Police and paramilitary troops patrolled the streets in central Dhaka as protesters took to the streets, shouting anti-government slogans. Violence spread to dozen other cities and towns, where protesters smashed vehicles and attacked shops, witnesses said.

Ireland agrees to pay troops for ear damage

BY SHAWN POGATCHNIK
The Associated Press

DUBLIN, Ireland — Ireland has paid 1 million euro to more than 15,000 soldiers who claim they suffered hearing damage from weapons training, the government announced Friday.

Current and former members of Ireland's army began suing the government in 1995 in pursuit of hefty payouts for alleged eardrum damage.

The scandal highlighted sloppy health and safety practices within the 11,500-member force, which didn't use modern ear protectors on firing

ranges until 1987. It also focused public criticism on army veterans, who were often accused of playing deaf for self-gain.

Dese Minister Michael Smith said average government lawyers were still receiving an amount of one new claim each week, but said the total liability was likely to be around a million, much less than feared.

"At one stage this looked as if it would be a never-ending saga that would cost the taxpayer over 1 billion euro," Smith said. "I am delighted and relieved that this has not proven to be the case."

Study: Plant-like creature may be oldest animal form

BY DAVID PERLMAN
San Francisco Chronicle

They look for all the world like feathery plants anchored to the bed of an ancient, long-vanished sea, but to fossil hunters they are the oldest evidence of complex life forms that ever emerged on Earth.

And — most probably — they represent the world's first true animals, according to Guy Narbonne, a paleontologist at Queen's University in Ontario who discovered the latest examples of the strange and controversial creatures.

Known as rangeomorphs, they were a worldwide clan that lived and evolved nearly 600 million years ago, thrived briefly, and then faded to extinction long before a time — millions of years later — when animal forms in all their variety exploded into existence and began the long eons of evolution.

Narbonne reports that he has found "an exquisitely preserved fossil assemblage" of the creatures in a rock formation along the fogbound shore of northeastern Newfoundland. When alive, they must indeed have been animals, he concludes in a report published in the current issue of the journal *Science*.

James Valentine, a noted University of California-Berkeley expert on the evolution of long-extinct organisms, agrees that the fossils were once truly living animals — feeding and reproducing but not necessarily moving from place to place. They are perhaps

descended from even more ancient sponges, he said.

The rangeomorphs lived from 560 million to 575 million years ago, in a geologic period known as the Ediacaran. As Narbonne said in an interview Thursday, "They ruled the earth for 15 million years before they vanished inexplicably."

The succeeding period, the Cambrian, took center stage from 460 million to 543 million years ago. That was a time, known as the "Cambrian explosion," when virtually every variety of ancestral animals — hard-shelled, leggy or soft-bodied — emerged in what to geologists and paleontologists classify as a brief time span.

The origins and evolution of complex organisms have long been a subject of great controversy among scientists who seek the enigmatic fossil evidence for early life.

But in a commentary on Narbonne's report, also published in *Science*, two Oxford University paleontologists say his discovery suggests that "the study of the life history and growth plan of these fossil animals could provide a Rosetta stone for decoding [ancient] animal evolution."

Oxford's Martin Brasier and Jonathan Antcliffe declare Narbonne's strange plant-like creatures "were not ancestral to Cambrian life at all," but "were uniquely fashioned beasts that met their doom at the end of the Precambrian" — a broad span of time from Earth's formation to the beginning of the Cambrian period.

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Jersey thief lynched

FL TAMPA — A man was charged with stealing computer equipment, autographed footballs and jerseys from the John Lynch Foundation after a police officer noticed he was wearing one of the missing No. 47 jerseys, officials said.

Paul Dana Doucette, 37, of Boston, was charged with the burglary and grand theft Wednesday after police arrested him in an unrelated robbery and noticed his jersey.

"He was wearing a brand-new John Lynch jersey," said police Sgt. Buddy Brogden. "You know how ... they still have the creases in them because they haven't been washed? This was it."

The jerseys, footballs, and computer equipment, worth \$60,000, were stolen from the Tampa office of the former Buccaneers' charity for children on Aug. 13 during the evacuation for Hurricane Charley.

"Some of these criminals, it's obvious they aren't thinking," Brogden said.

Suspected dog slaughter

HI HONOLULU — Police and the Hawaiian Humane Society said Thursday that they believe some dogs on Oahu may have been slaughtered for their meat.

"The agencies have received calls about dogs being stolen and their meat sold."

"We are looking to see if anyone knows about an organized pattern of stealing and butchering it and marketing that dog flesh for food and some sort of area that would feed it to other individuals," Detective Letha DeCaires said.

Calls have come from all over the island, including Waikiki, she said. Dog owners are disgusted.

"There's a lot of cruelty to animals besides this, but this is just appalling," pet owner Joanne Humphreys said.

Island illness

OH PUT-IN-BAY — More than 300 people appear linked to a mysterious illness including nausea, fever and vomiting in recent weeks on Lake Erie's South Bass Island, health officials said.

Health officials have documented 301 cases and are investigating 94 other claims of illnesses, Ohio Department of Health spokesman Kristopher Weiss said Thursday.

Most of the people had visited the island in the first two weeks of August, but some cases go back to early June, he said. So far, health officials have not found a source.

Symptoms including nausea, chills, fever, abdominal cramps and vomiting have generally lasted about 24 hours. Most people said they became sick within two or three days of visiting the island.

Weird phenomenon

NJ NEWARK — New Jersey is not the only weird state.

Weird N.J., the cult newsletter that became a magazine that became a best-selling book, has broadened its abnormal horizons, as a new book, "Weird U.S.: Your Traveler's Guide to America's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets."

After publishing the Weird N.J. newsletter and then magazine for a decade, Bloomfield-based authors



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Mark Moran and Mark Sceurman last year compiled the state's weirdness in a book, "Weird N.J."

Now, the success of the book has led the pair to catalogue some unexplained, creepy, offbeat places and folklore throughout the country in "Weird U.S.," published by Barnes & Noble Books, and due out in October.

How will readers know where to draw the line between fact and fantasy in the book? "That's up to you," the authors suggest. "We document them because we believe they are an important and intrinsic part of our modern American culture and worthy of recognition as such."

Swest college housing

MO HANNIBAL — How's this for swank student housing: Come live in the president's place! The president of Hannibal-LaGrange College and his wife have turned their home over to about a dozen female students due to a housing crunch.

It's the first time in a half-century that someone other than the president has lived in the president's house.

Woodrow Burt and his wife, Katherine, an English professor, have opted for temporary housing, and said they'll look soon for something more permanent.

The students who will live in the president's house are seniors.



Feeding time

Jenna Adams, of Myakka, Fla., feeds by syringe a 2-5 day old squirrel that was dropped off at the animal rescue facility D.A.R.T. in Punta Gorda, Fla.

Alleged ring

TX AUSTIN — A federal grand jury has indicted an Austin woman who authorities say ran a prostitution ring using women and girls smuggled into the United States from Mexico.

Maria Magdalena Lopez-Torres had been sought by federal authorities for about a year on human smuggling and weapons charges before she was arrested last month when she tried to renew her resident status in San Antonio.

Lopez was born in San Luis Potosi and is a permanent resident of the United States.

The federal indictment handed up Tuesday charges Lopez with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of a stolen firearm and importation of aliens for immoral purpose. She faces up to 10 years in prison on each count.

Rabid otter attack

NY PUTNAM VALLEY — A rabid otter latched onto, and bit, a 6-year-old boy who was taking swimming lessons at a small public lake Wednesday.

Police said Ethan Pederson emerged from the water with the otter hanging onto his back and legs. Lifeguards wrestled it off, but the animal ran in and out of the water several times, chasing after others in the class, police said.

Putnam County Sheriff's deputies were called to the lake about 11:15 a.m. Lifeguards finally trapped the animal under a plastic crate, and a deputy shot it dead. Police said the Putnam County Department of Health reported a positive rabies test.

Pederson was treated for hand and back wounds as well as for rabies.

Boulder crushes teen

CA MURRIETA — A 17-year-old high-school senior was crushed to death when the large boulder he was standing on suddenly broke loose from its base, threw him to the ground and rolled over him, witnesses and authorities said.

The dead teenager, Andrew Hahn, was boulder-begging with his brother and two friends when the accident took place. Police Sgt. Jim Ganley said the accident occurred in a rugged and inaccessible section of the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve.

Naked, or nude colored?

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A sheriff's deputy under investigation for allegedly sitting naked in public has resigned. Prosecutors have declined to file charges in his case, citing lack of evidence.

Sheriff Aaron Kennard received Deputy Darrell Magee's resignation letter, which stated "he was basically rethinking his career," said sheriff's Sgt. Rosie Rivera.

Magee allegedly took off his clothes and sat naked, cross-legged, for 30 seconds on a lawn Tuesday morning, according to two witnesses who talked to police. He then got dressed and drove off. Magee denied he was naked. He told detectives he was wearing an undergarment similar to his skin color as he conducted a short religious ritual.



Cool present

Mei Sheng, the San Diego Zoo's giant panda cub, gets a grip — and a tongue — on an ice sculpture of a number one to celebrate the cub's first birthday.

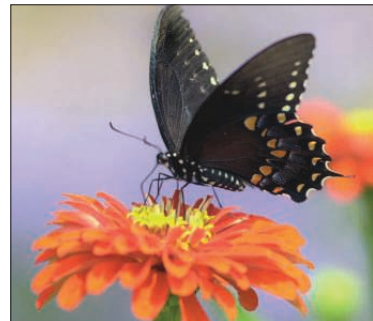


Fountain fun

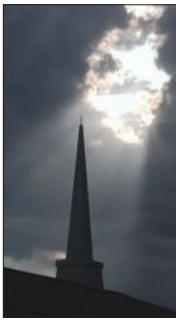
Brother and sister Garrick Green, 6, left, and Justice Green, 5, play chase while running around the Centroplex fountain, enjoying the pleasant weather in Baton Rouge, La.



In hog heaven? A sow pig stands in floodwater on Cindy Grabrian's farm in Thornton, Colo. Grabrian's farm flooded due to heavy rains the day before in the Denver, dropping up to 3 inches of rain in some areas.



Drink up A black swallowtail butterfly perches on a zinnia as it takes a drink of nectar at Sunflower Farms in Westminster, Md.



Ray of light Evening sunlight breaks through the rain clouds to bathe the First Baptist Church steeple in Kemper, Texas.



Not just for plowing anymore A passer-by watches as a John Deere motor from 1910 churns buckets full of ice and other ingredients into ice cream to be sold at Newell's Homemade Ice Cream at the Rooks county fair in Stockton, Kan.

Times Square debris falls

NY NEW YORK — Two people were slightly injured when a marble tile fell from the facade of the Times Square building that hosts the famed New Year's Eve ball drop.

Renovations were under way at One Times Square when debris fell from the tower at about 9:20 a.m. Thursday, authorities said. Two pedestrians, a man and a woman, suffered cuts and bruises, according to newspaper reports. The fire department said no one was hospitalized.

The city's Buildings Department said the building's owner, Sherwood Equities, did not have a permit for the work. The department ordered the renovations stopped and issued a citation for work without a permit.

The 25-story tower has hosted New Year's Eve celebrations since its 1904 opening, with the ball drop beginning three years later.

Louisiana airport plans

LA LAPLACE — The Louisiana Airport Authority said a team of Canadian and U.S. companies is ready to move forward on a proposed multibillion-dollar airport project. The authority is attempting to develop a huge cargo airport and transportation hub between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. The Canadian team will refine the master plan created in recent years by the authority.

Texaco spill settlement

MT GREAT FALLS — A Cascade County jury has ordered Texaco to pay \$15 million to finish cleaning up a 1955 gasoline pipeline spill in the small town of Sunburst, and \$25 million in punitive damages for not doing it sooner. The class-action lawsuit involved an underground plume of contaminants at the now-defunct Sunburst Works Refinery.

Underground tank checks

NJ TRENTON — The state has started regular inspections of its 22,000 underground storage tanks, thanks to voters' approval of a referendum setting aside funds. The \$2 million per year is paying 18 inspectors to make sure each tank is checked every three years.

Officials say millions of New Jerseyans get their drinking water from aquifers that are vulnerable to pollution from leaking tanks.

Unemployment optimism

IL CHICAGO — Illinois' unemployment rate rose to 6.1 percent in July, yet state officials said Thursday that the figure reflects a rebounding economy. Officials at the Illinois Department of Employment Security said July's rate mirrors a three-month average unemployment rate of 6.1 percent. The agency also says jobs have steadily opened up in several sectors, including educational and health services, and trade, transportation and utilities.

Prison growth rate slows

SD PIERRE — The state prison population continues to expand, but the rate of growth has slowed. The prison population averaged 3,059 in the past fiscal year, a growth rate of 3.6 percent, ac-

cording to Laurie Feller, the deputy state corrections secretary. That's half the annual pace of a decade earlier. Feller said the growth rate has slowed because inmates are getting shorter sentences and more are being paroled.

Couple found fatally shot

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A soon-to-be married couple reported missing when they didn't return to their jobs as camp counselors were found shot to death on a beach, apparently in their sleep, authorities said.

The bodies of Lindsay Cutshall, 23, of Ohio, and Jason Allen, 26, of Michigan, were discovered in sleeping bags by sheriff's deputies who were rescuing a stranded hiker.

Police believe the couple had been camping in the Jenner area, about 75 miles up the coast from San Francisco, since Saturday. Authorities do not know when the couple was killed.

The two were spending the summer working at a Christian adventure camp in Coloma, in the Sierra foothills about 50 miles east of Sacramento.

Teacher bonuses

AR LITTLE ROCK — As many as 500 college students will get up to \$6,000 annually if they agree to become teachers in understaffed subjects and areas of the state, Lt. Gov. Win Rockefeller said. The State Teacher Assistance Resource, or STAR, program will award money on the condition that students agree to teach math, science or a foreign language or to focus on special education. If they are willing to work in areas of Arkansas with critical teacher shortages.

Indian voter registration

ID LAPWAI — The National Congress of American Indians is working to register Nez Perce tribal members to vote. The movement is part of a nationwide effort led by the National Congress of American Indians to get 1 million of the nation's 2.7 million eligible Indian voters to the polls in November. The effort is billed as bipartisan, but the group also intends to provide candidate score cards relating to important Indian issues.

TV-watching record

MI GRAND RAPIDS — A pair of teenagers who spent more than two straight days publicly glued to a television set say they have set a new world record for uninterrupted TV viewing.

Chris Dean, 16, and Mike Dudek, 17, both of Grand Rapids, logged 52 consecutive hours of viewing time.

The teens, who are incoming high school seniors, surpassed the Guinness World Records mark of 50 hours and seven minutes by nearly two hours — giving new meaning to "must-see TV."

The teens set up their television inside an International House of Pancakes restaurant because it is open 24 hours a day and the management was willing to participate. According to rules set by Guinness, Dean and Dudek were required to remain awake with their eyes always on the screen.

Stories and photos from wire services

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Old enough to care The Bellingham (Wash.) Herald

This time of year — with summer doldrums setting in as election season heats up — is a perfect opportunity for parents to speak with their kids on the responsibility that comes with democracy. It is a chance for parents to tell their kids about the issues that matter and stress the value of being informed.

While younger teenagers are unable to cast their own vote in the November election, they should be taught the value of activism and political interaction. Many issues of this year's election, both local and domestic, will directly impact young citizens. Moreover, before the age of 18, a teenager is welcome to become active in the election process by attending forums, writing letters and otherwise promoting a cause.

Teenagers already understand the basic model of democracy, a knowledge that they attained while text messaging their votes to "American Idol." During a single episode of "American Idol," viewers submitted more than 28 million votes — a figure that is triple the number of votes cast by the 18 to 24 age demographic in the 2000 presidential election.

Parents have the primary influence in a young adult's life to reverse this trend. ... It is only a matter of time before these adolescents become the leaders of our country.

Bring on the monitors The Florida Times-Union, Jacksonville

This year's election will be the first presidential election to be monitored by an international organization.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, based in Vienna, Austria, consists of 55 nations. ... Group teams have observed more than 150 elections around the world and monitored the U.S. midterm elections of 2002.

Democrats who had pushed for the United Nations to monitor the upcoming U.S. elections are elated. Although they didn't expect what they wanted, they said the group's involvement will help ward off voter problems Florida and other states experienced during the 2000 presidential election.

Everyone wants elections to be as problem-free as possible. But anyone who thinks the presence of the OSCE is some sort of guarantee that voters and poll workers will make zero mistakes is likely to be disappointed.

The organization has no authority over the election process or its results. Nonetheless, at the invitation of the State Department, a contingent will arrive next month to plan how the election will be monitored.

As long as taxpayers aren't paying for the efforts and the monitors are not in the way, it shouldn't matter who monitors U.S. elections. Maybe the foreign contingent will do some constructive things on how elections should be conducted.

FBI trading on free speech Times-Union, Albany, N.Y.

Who says the political conventions don't matter any more? The FBI sure is interested in the Republican convention in New York City next week.

The bureau has been particularly aggressive



sive in its questioning and surveillance of people who may be inclined to go to New York City to protest. One FBI employee already has complained that its efforts to obtain information about suspicious activity at other political and anti-war demonstrations make for a very fuzzy distinction between legally protected free speech and illegal activity. The point of the complaint was that the FBI is out of line to suggest that recruitment, organizing and fund-raising by anti-war groups and other political activists were tantamount to violent or otherwise illegal activity.

The arm of the Justice Department that's defending more intense surveillance of convention protests is known as the Office of Legal Policy. ... When it says, as it did in a memo recently obtained by The New York Times, that any First Amendment concerns raised by the FBI's monitoring of protesters is exceeded by the interests of safety and security, the public has reason to be wary. ...

... To guard against another Sept. 11 shouldn't require a war against all those who still wish to exercise their rights to gather and protest lawfully.

Note to McGreevey: Just go Rochester (N.Y.) Democrat and Chronicle

Put aside, if you can, New Jersey Gov. James McGreevey's revelation that he is a "gay American" even as he announced his resignation, effective Nov. 15. The governor's sexual orientation, closeted as it apparently was, isn't the issue.

What is McGreevey's fitness to serve, given what's being learned about the stunning mismanagement that characterized his brief administration. He's a discredited leader who put unqualified cronies and would-be paramours in high-paying state jobs.

He himself contends that he's been blackmailed. And that's just what's known now. There will be more details, and they won't be pretty.

McGreevey has made an undeniable mess of things. He can redeem himself in part by stepping down now.

Here's a man, after all, who said he was resigning out of principle and concern for

the people of New Jersey and then threw in a condition that would ensure an essentially leaderless, and probably chaotic, state for weeks on end.

McGreevey was right to resign. But he's wrong to linger amid the wreckage.

Charley a test of priorities Naples (Fla.) Daily News

We are here to help you. Rest assured every effort is being made. We are working around the clock for you.

So say state and federal officials to the hurting and homeless victims of Hurricane Charley. Those residents of Charlotte, Lee and DeSoto counties have just one question: So where's the help? How is that "help" finding us shelter or even something to eat? Or a sanitary toilet or a shower? The summer's most sweltering weather since Charley hit has pushed them to push for answers.

Even those of us who are not severely victimized by Charley grew weary of bureaucrats' promises broadcast over the weekend Press conferences in Tallahassee sounded like lineups of professional circle-tanks. No question brought a straight answer.

Imagine how that fares in the real world — far away from air-conditioned offices, next to the remains of mobile homes played wide open in 90-degree heat. ...

President Bush's surprise inspection of Charley's path of destruction and death tempts one to cast the recovery in a larger, political light: Has U.S. emergency planning become too focused on terrorism, at the expense of natural perils? Here is a chance to prove the skeptics wrong.

Law can't be ignored The Advocate, Baton Rouge, La.

While it may be painful for the couples involved, the decision of the California Supreme Court to invalidate gay marriages performed in San Francisco this year is the correct one.

The unanimous court ruling enforced the principle that state law should not be set aside by local officials acting on their own.

Mayor Gavin Newsom and other city officials made a statement about their support

for civil marriage for gays and lesbians, a statement that provoked debate on the issue around the world.

But the court ruled unanimously that Newsom and his colleagues contravened state law. A 1977 state law defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

The court, in a separate 5-2 decision, voided the licenses issued by San Francisco. The court focused its ruling on the limits of local government authority, and did not resolve whether the California Constitution would permit a same-sex marriage. That question will have to wait as a flurry of lawsuits and countersuits over the gay weddings rises through the state's courts. ...

In the course of the civil-rights movement, which is somewhat comparable to today's debate on gay marriage, local officials sometimes defied what they considered unjust state laws. However, the courts have a duty to insist that laws should stand unless and until repealed, or found unconstitutional by a high court.

That is the proper way to address even the most controversial issue.

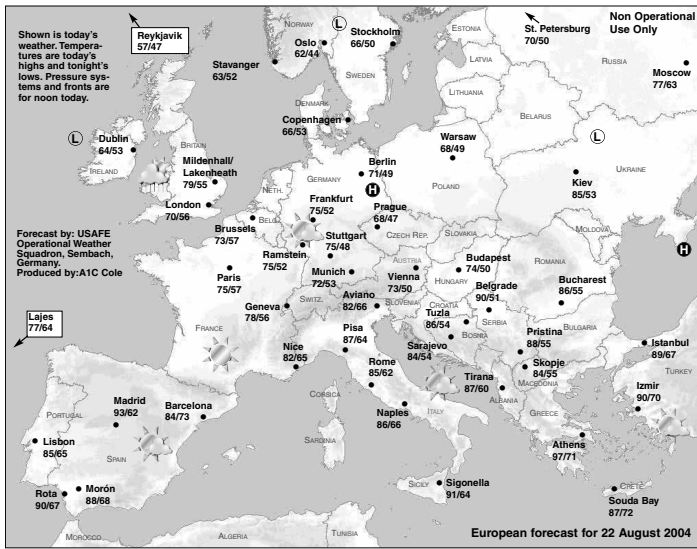
Keep the Olympic flame going Observer-Dispatch, Utica, N.Y.

How nice to see the world at war again. This, however, is a peaceful war — an oxymoron that best describes the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

On the Olympic battlefield are fought some of the world's fiercest battles. But there is no intentional spilling of blood, no loss of life. And while there might be some gut-wrenching and even a little brutality, there is no real shame. Instead, these brave competitors face one another with a special pride of knowing that no matter what the outcome, they are among the very best in the world. ...

Here is a melting pot of cultures and creeds, where skin color goes unchecked across a level playing field in a remarkable demonstration of hard work, determination and perseverance.

It brings cheers. And tears. But in the end there is a luster far brighter than a gold, a silver or a bronze. It shines with a brilliance that can cut through a more troubled world, if only we could see the light. We must seize every opportunity to open the door to let it in.



KEY: Sunny ☀️ P. Cloudy ☁️ Mostly cloudy ☁️ Shown ☁️ Showers ☁️ Tornadoes 🌪️ Rain 🌧️ Rain/snow 🌨️ Snow ❄️ Cold front 🌊 Warm front 🌊 Trough 🌊 Occluded fr. 🌊 Staty front 🌊 Low 🌊 High 🌊

AFRICA

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|--------------|----|----|-----------|----|----|
| Cape Town | 66 | 40 | Mogadishu | 84 | 70 |
| Dakar | 79 | 63 | Nairobi | 78 | 53 |
| Freetown | 80 | 74 | Rabat | 86 | 67 |
| Antananarivo | 86 | 67 | Tripoli | 86 | 67 |

THE WORLD

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|-------------|-----|----|-------------|-----|----|
| Amsterdam | HI | LO | Manila | HI | LO |
| Batavia | 108 | 81 | Mexico City | 76 | 56 |
| Beijing | 83 | 61 | Montreal | 70 | 55 |
| Albuquerque | 89 | 75 | Riyadh | 111 | 81 |
| Bermuda | 85 | 69 | Rio de Jan | 83 | 66 |
| Cancun | 81 | 65 | Saudi | 83 | 66 |
| Helsinki | 69 | 45 | Sofia | 78 | 48 |
| Hong Kong | 81 | 61 | Sydney | 72 | 53 |
| London | 85 | 65 | Taipei | 86 | 76 |

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

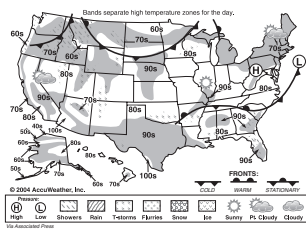
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| Alabama | HI | LO | Ark. | HI | LO | Calif. | HI | LO | Colo. | HI | LO | Conn. | HI | LO | Del. | HI | LO | D.C. | HI | LO | Fla. | HI | LO | Ga. | HI | LO | Idaho | HI | LO | Ill. | HI | LO | Ind. | HI | LO | Iowa | HI | LO | Kans. | HI | LO | Kent. | HI | LO | La. | HI | LO | Maine | HI | LO | Maryl. | HI | LO | Mass. | HI | LO | Mich. | HI | LO | Minn. | HI | LO | Miss. | HI | LO | Mo. | HI | LO | Mont. | HI | LO | Neb. | HI | LO | Nev. | HI | LO | N.H. | HI | LO | N.J. | HI | LO | N.M. | HI | LO | N.Y. | HI | LO | N.C. | HI | LO | N.D. | HI | LO | Ohio | HI | LO | Ore. | HI | LO | Penn. | HI | LO | R.I. | HI | LO | S.C. | HI | LO | S.D. | HI | LO | Tenn. | HI | LO | Texas | HI | LO | Vt. | HI | LO | Wash. | HI | LO | W.V. | HI | LO | Wis. | HI | LO | Wyo. | HI | LO |
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MIDEAST



THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the low 70s with lows in the mid 50s.

Britain, Ireland: Partly to mostly cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the low 70s with lows in the mid 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s with lows in the mid 50s.

France: Clear to partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the mid 60s.

Northern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s with lows in the low 50s.

Southern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s with lows in the low 50s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s with lows in the low 50s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the low 80s with lows in the mid 60s.

Southern Italy: Clear to partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the low 70s.

Kosovo: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs in the high 80s with lows in the mid 50s.

Norway: Partly cloudy with morning rain showers. Highs in the mid 60s with lows in the low 50s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s with lows in the mid 60s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 90s with lows in the low 70s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at <https://ows.sembach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|------|
| Sunrise (Baghdad) | Today | 6:31 |
| Sunrise (Frankfurt) | 6:26 | 6:28 |
| Sunset (Baghdad) | 7:41 | 7:39 |
| Sunset (Frankfurt) | 7:41 | 7:39 |

First of Aug 23 Full moon Aug 30 Last of Sept 6 New moon Sept 14

Scheduled to

ETS or

PCS?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Sunday Horoscope

The sun transiting into the nurturing sign of Virgo marks the beginning of an extremely productive cycle. Virgo is an expert at correcting, improving and adding any elements that will ultimately contribute to growth. This evergreen energy can be directed toward a special project, a relationship or an area of your life that needs attention.

Joyce Jilison



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (August 22): An optimistic approach to relationships gives you many wonderful memories this year. You're enriched by what people bring to your life in the next seven weeks. When you're not expecting a thing, you are given much. Finances are abundant as a direct result of a decision you make in December. Love signs are Aquarius and Scorpio.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Loved ones need to shine and may seem to eclipse your light for a short while. Your graciousness will be long remembered. It's not a good day to use your cell phone while driving—in fact, maybe it's never a good day for that.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): The star is augmented by everything you read and absorb. A friend who has known you forever will remind you of past lessons—as if you needed someone to do that. It's a double insurance you won't repeat the mistake.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Most of your day is spent catering to the needs of your loved ones, but that's also where your satisfaction is greatest. Tonight, do what will awaken your senses. Knowing your limits will allow you to make the most of a situation.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): You've got creative energy to burn off and could produce something outstanding while merely fooling around.

People around you add to the magic. They feel free to express themselves, and you get the benefit of that mood.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Old-fashioned values and manners are seriously underrated by most people, but not you. Your attention

to social rules may seem to go unappreciated, but truly classy people take note. You go down on an "A" list of sorts.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You're sensitive to subtle energy shifts, which will help you navigate family complications. You could very well be the one who makes everyone get along. The tone you set is infectious. A Capricorn romance is all consuming.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Think before speaking, and ignore pressure that salesmen and spouses may put on you. That goes away, but debt will linger on. Singles, don't move in with aggressive energy. Give elusive dates space, and they'll return later.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Your affinity for people who think like you is matched only by your fascination with people who don't. Welcome diversity in all areas of your life. The more influences you have, the better you'll be able to express yourself.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22): You're in a position to criticize and may even be asked or paid to give your opinion. But just when you judge what is outside yourself, you might see it reflected inside. Apply your moral compass to only your own situation.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There will be no shortage of events in which to test your social (or possibly psychic) skills. The jovial atmosphere includes a bit of mischief that's not to be taken too seriously. Be a good sport. Tonight, be quick to forgive.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You're the ray of hope. You can change people's thinking by painting a picture of a better future. It's OK for you to want nice things and a luxurious environment. Don't be ashamed of your outstanding taste.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You're fearless and could be the perfect "guinea pig" for trying a new technique or method. Many prospects don't help you as much as one you go on with. Some restrictions can be more liberating than wide-open options.

Creators Syndicate

'Bona fides' is deceiving

Shouldn't "bona fides" be a plural word, and appear with a plural verb?

"Bona fides" looks like a plural word in English, since it ends with that "s," but in Latin there is no such thing as a single "bona fide." Rather, "bona fides" is a singular noun that literally translates as "good faith."

When "bona fides" entered English in the mid-17th century, it at first stayed very close to its Latin use—it was found mostly in legal contexts, and it meant "honesty or truthfulness of purpose," as well as "good faith, or sincerity," just as it did in Latin. It also retained its singular construction. Some-

one using this original sense might speak of "a claimant whose bona fides is unquestionable," for example.

However, in the 20th century, use of "bona fides" began to wane, and it began to appear with a plural verb in certain contexts. For example, a sentence such as "the informant's bona fides were satisfactory" is now possible. So the short answer is that while "bona fides" isn't necessarily a word that "shouldn't" be used with a plural, it's certainly possible and acceptable to do so.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition. Send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordplay Dept., P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Child's friend makes impolite remarks about other people

Dear Abby: I have a friend I'll call Cameron. Cameron is a very judgmental person. My mom watches her every movement.

Mom doesn't like the fact that Cameron is always saying how dumb and stupid people look as she sees them pass by. Mom is going to talk to her and tell her to straighten up, or she can't come over next summer. If that happens, I know Cameron will ask me to why she can't.

What do I tell her? If I tell her the truth, I'll offend her. I'm afraid she'll be mad at me and not want to be my friend anymore. I don't want to lose my friendship with her because she makes me laugh.

— Worried in Denver

Dear Worried: When your mother talks to your friend about her behavior, she'll be doing the girl a favor. If Cameron feels the need to ask you why she's no longer welcome, you should tell her the truth. Her behavior is obnoxious.

People who act that way usually do it because they think it makes them look superior. In October, it's a tip-off that the person is insecure.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: After my separation and divorce, I have had a relationship with a man I'll call "Austen." He was in financial trouble and asked me to take out a loan of \$15,000 for him, since I have good credit. He claimed that if he could get himself "straightened out," we could have a brighter future.

After two years of emotional abuse, I finally ended the relationship with Austen. It has been several months, and he is consistently late making the monthly payments. Last month, he told me that since I won't resume the relationship, I can go to hell and said not to call him again.

I am now stuck with the burden of paying off the loan.

Any ideas how to persuade Austen to fulfill his responsibility?

— Feels Like a Sucker, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Dear Feels: Unless his name is on the loan document, the financial responsibility is all yours. Consider what happened to be very expensive tuition in the school of experience. I'll bet you don't make that mistake again.

Readers respond to G.I. in Iraq was disowned by father

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Seeking Acceptance in Iraq," the soldier whose father treats him as "dead" because they disagree about the war. As president of the national veterans' organization VietNow, I was at first appalled that a fellow Vietnam veteran would do the very thing to his own son that much of the country did to us when we returned home.

However, there may be more going on. This officer's father may be dealing silently with some of the baggage of his own service, and those feelings are now being brought to the surface because of his son's choices. I hope and pray that someday soon, this father will be able to put his arms around his son and tell him he is proud of him and "welcome home." There will be plenty of time for history to sort out the politics of this current war. Right now, we need to do everything we can to support our troops.

— Rich Sanders (vietnow.com)

Dear Rich Sanders: We were heartened by the outpouring of mail for this officer. Our readers are extremely wanted him to know that he is in their thoughts and prayers. Read on for a sampling:

Annie's Mailbox



From the Midwest: How sad that this father has chosen to cut communication and love from his son when he needs it more than ever.

Dad should be proud that his son follows through with his commitments, and demonstrates great loyalty, determination and dedication. Our children make choices with the values and morals we teach them. That father should support his son's dedication, even if he does not support the war. To this soldier I say: Stay strong and come home alive. You have family around the world, not just at home.

Denver: What would be his father's biggest regret if he got the worst news any parent could receive? That his last words to his son were, "You're dead to me." Those are powerful words, especially when it's too late to take them back. It's much harder to ask for forgiveness standing at your son's grave than it is when he's standing in front of you.

St. Paul, Minn.: Your response seems to side more with the son than the father. This father has recognized that President Bush misled everyone about weapons of mass destruction to justify the Iraq war.

Dad does not have to compro-

Dear Abby: I am a 33-year-old mother of two. I have been in a relationship with a married 41-year-old man for four years.

About a year and a half ago, he filed for divorce and had her served with the papers. She signed them, but she signed in the wrong spot.

He went back to his lawyer's office and got new papers for her to sign, but for some reason he has not pursued it.

The lawyer's office finally sent a letter saying that they're going to dismiss the case if he doesn't come back and file to have her served by the constable. I told him I would give him the \$350, but he hasn't taken me up on my offer. What do you think I should do?

— Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired

Dear Sick and T: For openers, forget about marrying him. He's still married.

The problem isn't that the man has a lack of money; what he lacks is motivation.

Letters for this column — with name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Alhambra, CA 90006. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

mise his convictions about this evil war.

He should be praised for his patriotic stand against the war, and his son should recognize the true bravery of his father.

Illinois: I am absolutely dumbfounded that a man who served in Vietnam could react so poorly to his own son. I thought we learned that you don't have to agree with a war to support those brave men and women who fight on our behalf. To all those who serve, please come home safely. For those who are not, the war was a mistake, the army officer is an honorable man, doing his duty and living his life the best way he can. I would be glad to be a substitute father and give him all the emotional support he needs.

— Lt. Col.

Air Force Reserves, Ret.

Connecticut: My daughter is a member of the Army National Guard, and she just returned home from a year's deployment in Iraq. She told me that what kept her morale up was the support she received from her family and friends. As much as I didn't want my daughter to go, it isn't about me. It's my proud of her.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Mary Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailboxcomcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Happy campers go home

BY RUSTY BRYAN
Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — The 425 participants who completed the three-day DODDS-Europe summer football camp headed home Friday carrying a whole lot more than helmets, shoulder pads and sleeping bags.

"I learned a lot of basic skills of linebacking," Brussels senior Jacob Williamson said. "It was nice to get instruction from guys you can look up to — guys you really think what they're talking about."

Friday's final day of camp was highlighted by the selection of camp MVPs and the winners of competitions that included the 40-yard dash, vertical leap, a bench-press contest, a punt-pass-and-kick event, a line-man's obstacle course, and an iron-man event.

A seven-on-seven team competition completed the session. It was won for the second straight year by Heidelberg, which sent 50 plays to the camp.

Camp MVPs were selected by personnel coaches, and those players went home with plaques.

"I learned a lot," said co-MVP lineman Tom Tate, a senior at Würzburg. The other MVP for linemen was Brandon Simmons of Heidelberg.

"I wasn't a very good offensive lineman last year, but this year I'll be able to help the team there," Tate said. "I learned so many different ways to block. I know what to do on the field."

Learning was the main objective of camp, but it produced other benefits, according to Ramstein coach Glenn Porter. "Conditioning is a big key," Porter said. "In just a few days, these guys will be in uniform, and we have to get them ready in shape. That really helps."

The camp ran smoothly, according to co-director Eric Mead of Würzburg. Mead and Marcus Grieser of Ansbach put in four months of planning.

"We're looking forward to doing it next year," Mead said.

E-mail Rusty Bryan at bryan@mail.strips.com



RUSTY BRYAN/Stars and Stripes

London Central's Tom Tate (above) was voted the 2004 DODDS-Europe co-MVP lineman along with Heidelberg's Brandon Simmons.

DODDS camp champions

WÜRZBURG, Germany — Winners of individual competitions held during the three-day 2004 DODDS-Europe summer football camp for high school athletes that ended Friday (senior division is freshmen and sophomores).

Camp MVPs

(Selected by personnel coaches)
Quarterbacks—T.J. Trice (Heidelberg); J.D. Lindsay (Parch).
Running backs—Richard Rendon (Stalpe); David Kennedy (Parch).
Receivers—Sal Mena (Würzburg); Paul Peterson (Ramstein).
Defensive backs—Brian Greeley (Ramstein); Robert Edwards (Würzburg).
Line-men—Tom Tate (London Central); Brandon Simmons (Heidelberg).

40-yard dash

Seniors—James Eaters (Ansbach) 4.6 seconds; Eric Gregory (Würzburg) 4.7 seconds (Ramstein) 4.7.
Junior linemen—Scott Wimmer (International School of Brussels) 5.4.
Vertical jump

Seniors—T.J. Trice (Heidelberg) 32 inches.
Senior linemen—Ben West (Heidelberg) 38 inches.
Junior linemen—Chris Batten (Ramstein) 31 inches.
Junior linemen—Chris Batten (Ramstein) 28.5 inches.

Bench press

120 pounds—Brian Simmons (Heidelberg) 95 lbs., 13 reps.
150 pounds—Bary King (Würzburg) 115 lbs., 27 reps.
180 pounds—Walter Cichowski (Ansbach) 115 lbs., 25 reps.
200 pounds—Dale Gierling (Stalpe) 145 lbs., 21 reps.

145 lbs., 21 reps.—Jamal Womble (Mannheim) 135 lbs., 12 reps.
175-pound seniors—Mike Ewing (Ansbach) 150 lbs., 20 reps.
175-pound juniors—Eric Gyan (Ramstein) 150 lbs., 13 reps.

Iron man

(Mile-run time 1:32, second for each sit-up, push-up and pull-up completed one minute each)
Seniors—Taurian Moore (Ansbach) 5:10.
Juniors—Aaron Ellison (Hannau) 3:21.

Punt, pass and kick
Seniors—Lones Soler (Wiesbaden) 40 yards.
Juniors—Lones Soler (Wiesbaden) 40 yards.
Linebackers—Lones Soler (Wiesbaden) 40 yards.
Seniors—Lones Soler (Wiesbaden) 40 yards.
Juniors—Lones Soler (Wiesbaden) 40 yards.

Linebacker's obstacle course

190 pounds and heavier—Brandon Simmons (Heidelberg) 1:00.
150 pounds and lighter—Evan Watson (Wiesbaden) 1:00.
Linebackers—Lones Soler (Wiesbaden) 1:00.
Seniors—Lones Soler (Wiesbaden) 1:00.
Juniors—Lones Soler (Wiesbaden) 1:00.

Rison signs with CFL team

The Associated Press

MISSISSAUGA, Ontario — Former Pro Bowl receiver Andre Rison signed with the CFL's Toronto Argonauts on Saturday, less than two weeks after a U.S. judge ordered his arrest for failing to pay child support.

Rison, 37, spent 12 seasons in the NFL, his last in 2000. He agreed to join the Argonauts practice roster and will practice with the team for the first time Sunday. He worked out for the team before being offered a contract and said this is the best move I could have made for myself and my family," he said in a state-

ment released by the team. "I am here to play football."

A Georgia judge ordered his arrest last month for not paying \$107,350 in child support. The judge ruled Rison was in contempt of court and should be jailed for 20 days. The asked that other jurisdictions order the state assist in the arrest. Rison hasn't paid his \$3,500-a-month child-support payment for his 16- and 18-year-old children since August 2002, the order said.

Rison was suspended for four games in 2001 for a repeat violation of the league's substance abuse policy and has been out of football since then.

Backlatter's injury soils Owens' coming-out party

Eagles RB likely out for season with torn knee tendon

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Correll Buckhalter's injury overshadowed Terrell Owens' spectacular debut with the Philadelphia Eagles.

Owens caught an 81-yard touchdown pass from Donovan McNabb on Philadelphia's first play, and rookie J.R. Reed returned a kickoff 88 yards for a score, leading the Eagles over the Baltimore Ravens 26-17 in an exhibition game Friday night.

The victory was costly for Philadelphia, which lost Buckhalter after he tore the patella tendon in his right knee in the first quarter. Eagles coach Andy Reid said the "99 percent" sure the running back will need surgery and miss the season.

"It's sad to see," Reid said. "Correll came in at a great place." A fourth-year pro, Buckhalter said that the 2002 season tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee in the team's first mini-camp. The Eagles were counting on Buckhalter and third-year pro Brian Westbrook to share the running duties after Duce Staley signed with Pittsburgh in the offseason.

"It's hard for us to swallow," Owens said. Will Demps returned a lateral for a TD, and quarterback Brett Stewart ran for a score for Baltimore.

"The only good thing about something like this is the learning you can get out of it," Ravens coach Brian Billick said. While exhibition games usually attract little interest, most eyes focused on Owens and Ray Lewis, who exchanged verbal jabs after the fourth-year Pro Bowl receiver



AP

Terrell Owens (81) caught an 81-yard touchdown pass on Philadelphia's first play from scrimmage on Friday night.

spurned the Ravens, forcing a trade to the Eagles after the San Francisco 49ers initially dealt him to Baltimore.

Owens' rejection, Lewis warned the outspoken receiver not to go across the middle. Owens responded by saying Lewis isn't the hardest hitter to play in the league.

The feud didn't live up to its hype as the players hardly crossed paths in one half.

"We did come together and I told him I loved him and he told me he loved me," Owens said. "Ray is my friend."

In their first game at home since losing their third straight NFL title game, the Eagles gave fans what they've been waiting to see for years — a big play from a receiver.

After the Ravens went three-and-out on their first possession, the Eagles took over at their 10. Owens blew past cornerback Gary Baxter, caught McNabb's pass and outran three defenders to the end zone, briefly slowing near the 10 to mockingly hold the ball out.

McNabb finished seven of 14 for 158 yards, one TD and one in-

terception. Owens had just the one catch.

Baltimore made it 10-10 when Ed Reed stepped in front of a pass intended for Owens, returned it 27 yards and lateraled to Demps, who ran the final 15 yards for the score.

Ravens quarterback Kyle Boller was 10 of 20 for 97 yards and one interception. Jamal Lewis ran for 39 yards on eight carries.

In other games on Friday: **Falcons 27, Vikings 24:** Matt Schaub threw three touchdown passes in relief of Michael Vick to lead the host Falcons.

The rookie from Virginia completed 16 of 19 passes for 205 yards and no interceptions.

Daunte Culpepper and Gus Frenette had long TD passes for the Vikings (1-1), who had leads of 17-0 and 24-13 before the Falcons rallied behind Schaub and the rest of the reserves.

Randy Moss caught three passes for 95 yards and a touchdown, including a 46-yarder for a score.

Vick completed five nine passes for 35 yards and ran three times for 18 yards.

Jaguars 14, Bucs 6: John Henderson was the top offensive first half by intercepting a pass on the first play from scrimmage, and the host Jaguars overcame early mistakes on offense against the Bucs.

Quinn Gray threw a 48-yard touchdown pass to Matthew Hatchette and Rich Alexis ran 1 yard for a TD for Jacksonville, which missed three field goals and failed to take advantage of two turnovers deep in Bucs territory in the first quarter.

Tampa Bay, limited to 21 yards on 19 plays in the first half, was held without a first down until Chris Simms completed a 15-yard pass to Will Heller midway through the third quarter.

The second-year quarterback led two scoring drives in the last 25 minutes. Simms went 13 of 23 for 104 yards and ran four times for a team-high 22 yards.

Source: McGahee demands to start

The Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Running back Willis McGahee has asked the Buffalo Bills to trade him if he is not their starter on opening day, a source told.

The Associated Press on Friday.

McGahee's request was not issued as an ultimatum, but the player made clear he won't be happy backing up Travis Henry, said the source, who is close to McGahee, and spoke on the condition of anonymity. Bills spokesman Scott Bernhardt said, "There is no truth to that whatsoever."

Team president Tom Donahoe denied the report. "There's nothing to it," Donahoe said Friday. "Willis is making progress and is very happy. We have no intention of trading him. We need him both."

McGahee was not available for comment. McGahee's agent, Drew Rosenhaus, declined comment.

In his exhibition debut, McGahee had 13 carries for 58 yards, a 9-yard reception and a touchdown.

Agassi, Hewitt reach Legg Mason semifinals

WASHINGTON — Andre Agassi continues to make quick work of the field in the Legg Mason tournament, beating Paul-Henri Mathieu 6-4, 6-4 on Friday to reach the tournament's semifinals for the seventh straight year.

The top seed and five-time champion had a far easier time than No. 2 Lleyton Hewitt, who advanced to his sixth semifinal of the season with a 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) victory over seventh-seeded Cyril Saulnier. Hewitt will face the defending champion and Robby Ginepri. Agassi will play Gilles Muller.

Top Texas recruit might be out for season

AUSTIN, Texas — Team doctors believe Texas wide receiver Jordan Shipley tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee during practice on Thursday.

Shipley set Texas high school career records for pass receptions (264), receiving yards (5,424) and touchdowns (73). His yardage and TD marks second nationally.

On the driver's seat at Firestone

Leads Sabbatini, Woods by 3 in NEC

The Associated Press

AKRON, Ohio — Stewart Cink threatened to turn the NEC Invitational into a runaway Saturday morning, making two birdies to start his long day at Firestone before Tiger Woods began closing the gap.

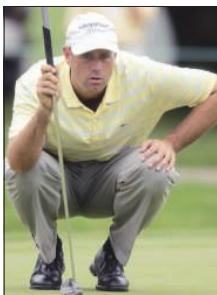
Cink, who ended with a 40-yard chip-in for birdie when heavy rain suspended the second round Friday, returned to hole a 25-foot birdie putt on the 11th and then stuffed his tee shot into 5 feet for another birdie on the 12th.

That gave him a five-shot lead, but a bogey from the bunker slowed him and he wound up with a 2-under 68.

Cink was at 9-under 131, and had a three-shot lead over Woods and Rory Sabbatini, who each shot a 69.

Woods, a three-time winner at Firestone South, finished off this rain delay much better this time.

He returned Friday morning to complete a bogey-bogey-bogey finish. On Saturday morning, he made three straight birdies and missed a chance for 5 feet.



Stewart Cink has taken only 50 putts through two rounds of the NEC Invitational.

"I wanted to make two birdies coming in and get a 5 (under), so that was a bonus," Woods said. "At least I'm still right there."

David Tomis was among 24 players who

finished the second round Friday afternoon just ahead of a downpour that made the venerable course unplayable, with puddles around the cup and small streams cutting through the fairway.

He had a 66 and wound up in a tie at 5-under 135 with Rod Pampling (67), British Open champion Todd Hamilton (67) and Davis Love III (68) were another stroke back.

Sunshine was in the forecast for the remainder of the weekend, and the World Golf Championship was expected to get back on schedule by the end of Saturday.

Cink was in good position to become only the fourth wire-to-wire winner at Firestone, and the first since Woods won by 11 shots in 2000.

One race that hasn't materialized is for No. 1. It looks like Woods will survive for at least another week.

The guys who have a chance to end his 262 consecutive weeks at No. 1 — Vijay Singh and Ernie Els — played as if they were stung over from a tough week in contention for the PGA Championship.

PGA champion Singh, who only needed to finish ahead of Woods here to become No. 1 for the first time in his career, twice missed par putts inside 3 feet and shot another 73 on Saturday. He was at 6-over 146.

Els, whose major championship season was filled only with heartache, made two

double bogeys on the back to complete his first round Friday morning at 72, shot 77 in the second round and was 9-over par.

Masters champion Phil Mickelson can't be No. 1 this week — probably not even this year. He shot 75 and was 5-over.

Petterson ahead in Wendy's Championship

DUBLIN, Ohio — Playing through heavy showers on Friday, Suzann Petterson took a one-stroke lead in the Wendy's Championship for Children through two rounds.

More than an inch of rain pounded Tartan Fields Golf Club, suspending play for the second straight day.

Petterson, bogey-free through 36 holes, shot a second-round 68 and was at 9-under 135.

Defending champion Hee-Won Han and Reiley Rankin were one shot back. Also moving into contention were teenage amateurs Paula Creamer and Michelle Wie. Both were at 12-under 142.

Rookie Taylor leads Reno-Tahoe Open

RENO, Nev. — Rookie Vaughn Taylor birdied three holes down the stretch Friday to shoot a second straight bogey-free 67 and take the second-round lead in the rain-delayed Reno-Tahoe Open.

Taylor was at 10-under 134, two strokes ahead of hometown favorite Scott McCarron, Hunter Mahan and Joe Ogilvie.

Rainout puts Johnson on pole

BY MIKE HARRIS

The Associated Press

BROOKLYN, Mich. — It was only an offhand remark by Jimmie Johnson, but Robbie Loomis wasn't buying it.

After qualifying for the GFS Marketplace 400 at Michigan International Speedway was rained out Friday, Jeff Gordon's crew chief told Johnson that he deserved to be starting from the pole in Sunday's race as well as a week earlier at Watkins Glen International.

The grid was filled for both events mostly by car-owner points because of wet weather. Johnson told Loomis he really didn't earn the pole starts, but Loomis disagreed.

"You did earn this one," he told Johnson. "Twenty-seven weeks you've been one of the most consistent cars out there and have earned this spot in the points."

While Nextel Cup leader Johnson and series runner-up Gordon will start side-by-side in the front row of the 43-car field, just as they did at Watkins Glen, much of the focus Sunday will be several rows behind the Hendrick Motorsports teammates.

For the first time, only the top 10 drivers after the 26th race of the season — Sept. 11 in Richmond, Va. — will be eligible to race for the title over the final 10 events.

Barring the unexpected, the top five or six drivers in the standings have little to worry about, except trying to build momentum for the championship playoff.

But the drivers in positions eight through 15 in the standings, separated by only 160 points with only four races remaining until the Chase for the Cup begins, will be bunched up behind them for the start of Sunday's race.

"The farther out of the top 10 you are, the more risks you're going to take out there," Gordon said. "The guys who are six through 10 are just going to have to be solid and not do anything to hurt their situations."

Gordon said it's probably too early for any of them to take too many chances.

"The big risks will come with

one, maybe two races to go," the four-time series champion said. "As each race goes by, they'll get riskier and riskier."

Johnson isn't too concerned about what will happen Sunday, even with so many strong entries ready to solidify or improve their positions.

"I'm not really worried about overaggression by people," said Johnson, who leads Gordon by 40 points and is 426 ahead of eighth-place Kevin Harvick. "You need always to remember who you're racing, what situation you may be in and approach them and race them with that in mind."

"That's what this points system is set up to do, create better racing, some action and more things to talk about."

Johnson also noted that, with the same situation at Watkins Glen, the start of the race went off without a hitch.

"As far as us lining up on points, I think everybody I'm around, especially in the top 10, will be pretty calm and relaxed," he said. "We all know it's a long race and there's nothing to gain right away."

Starting in positions 11 and 12 will be rookie Kaye Kahne and defending champion Ryan Newman, who won here in June. Then it's Mark Martin, Dale Jarrett and Jamie McMurray. All five are within 99 points of Mayfield.

Jeff Burton, who won the Roush Racing after nine years because the team could not find a primary sponsor for his car, will start 28th in the No. 30 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet previously driven by rookie Johnny Sauter and Dave Blaney.

Burton was replaced in the No. 99 Roush Ford by Carl Edwards, a regular in NASCAR's Craftsman Truck series. He'll start 23rd in his first Cup race.

GFS Marketplace 400 lineup

Race Sunday

At Michigan International Speedway

Brooklyn, Mich.

Lap length: 2 miles

1. (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet

2. (24) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet

3. (8) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet

4. (20) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet

5. (17) Matt Kenseth, Ford

6. (38) Elliott Sauter, Ford

7. (97) Budweiser, Ford

8. (29) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet

9. (38) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet

10. (13) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge

11. (9) Casey Kashe, Dodge

12. (12) Ryan Newman, Ford

13. (6) Mark Martin, Ford

14. (24) Dale Jarrett, Ford

15. (42) Jamie McMurray, Dodge

16. (34) Casey Mears, Dodge

17. (15) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet

18. (2) Rusty Wallace, Chevrolet

19. (31) Bobby Gordon, Chevrolet

20. (47) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet

21. (5) Terry Labonte, Chevrolet

22. (49) Sterling Marlin, Chevrolet

23. (99) Carl Edwards, Ford

24. (16) Greg Biffle, Ford

25. (3) Joe Nemeche, Chevrolet

26. (22) Scott Wimmer, Dodge

27. (60) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge

28. (30) Jeff Burton, Chevrolet

29. (40) Ward Burton, Chevrolet

30. (77) Brendan Gaughan, Dodge

31. (42) Hermie Sadler, Chevrolet

32. (46) Kyle Petty, Dodge

33. (49) Ken Schrader, Dodge

34. (43) Jeff Green, Chevrolet

35. (37) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet

36. (50) Todd Bodine, Dodge

37. (20) Ricki Falmehra, Dodge

38. (4) Jimmy Spencer, Chevrolet

39. (80) Derrick Cope, Ford

40. (60) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge

41. (40) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Dodge

42. (77) Hermie Sadler, Chevrolet

43. (46) Kyle Petty, Dodge

44. (49) Ken Schrader, Dodge

45. (43) Kevin Lesage, Chevrolet

46. (37) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet

47. (50) Todd Bodine, Dodge

48. (20) Ricki Falmehra, Dodge

49. (4) Jimmy Spencer, Chevrolet

50. (80) Derrick Cope, Ford

51. (60) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge

52. (40) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Dodge

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54. (46) Kyle Petty, Dodge

55. (49) Ken Schrader, Dodge

56. (43) Kevin Lesage, Chevrolet

57. (37) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet

58. (50) Todd Bodine, Dodge

59. (20) Ricki Falmehra, Dodge

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63. (40) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Dodge

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71. (4) Jimmy Spencer, Chevrolet

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73. (60) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge

74. (40) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Dodge

75. (77) Hermie Sadler, Chevrolet

76. (46) Kyle Petty, Dodge

77. (49) Ken Schrader, Dodge

78. (43) Kevin Lesage, Chevrolet

79. (37) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet

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81. (20) Ricki Falmehra, Dodge

82. (4) Jimmy Spencer, Chevrolet

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85. (40) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Dodge

86. (77) Hermie Sadler, Chevrolet

87. (46) Kyle Petty, Dodge

88. (49) Ken Schrader, Dodge

89. (43) Kevin Lesage, Chevrolet

90. (37) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet

91. (50) Todd Bodine, Dodge

92. (20) Ricki Falmehra, Dodge

93. (4) Jimmy Spencer, Chevrolet

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98. (46) Kyle Petty, Dodge

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100. (43) Kevin Lesage, Chevrolet

101. (37) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet

102. (50) Todd Bodine, Dodge

103. (20) Ricki Falmehra, Dodge

104. (4) Jimmy Spencer, Chevrolet

105. (80) Derrick Cope, Ford

106. (60) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge

107. (40) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Dodge

108. (77) Hermie Sadler, Chevrolet

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142. (46) Kyle Petty, Dodge

143. (49) Ken Schrader, Dodge

144. (43) Kevin Lesage, Chevrolet

145. (37) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet

146. (50) Todd Bodine, Dodge

147. (20) Ricki Falmehra, Dodge

148. (4) Jimmy Spencer, Chevrolet

149. (80) Derrick Cope, Ford

150. (60) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge

151. (40) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Dodge

152. (77) Hermie Sadler, Chevrolet

153. (46) Kyle Petty, Dodge

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164. (46) Kyle Petty, Dodge

165. (49) Ken Schrader, Dodge

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

U.S. boats in sailing's 470 class

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Americans Paul Foerster, 40, and Kevin Burnham, 47, won the first Olympic titles of their long careers Saturday, dominating their British rivals in a brilliant match race in the 470 class.

It was as thrilling as sailing gets, as Foerster and Burnham gained control over Nick Rogers and Joe Gianfield during pre-start maneuvers and never let up. The veterans followed the basic rule of match racing by keeping their boat between the younger British crew and each mark.

Rogers, 27, and Gianfield, 25, got the silver, and Kazuto Sakai and Kenjiro Todoroki of Japan got the bronze.

Burnham, normally pretty low-key, celebrated his gold medal by doing a backflip into the Saronic Gulf just after they crossed the finish line, leaving Foerster to control the 15-foot boat in the spectator fleet.

Foerster is in his fourth Olympics. He won the 470 silver in 2000 and the Flying Dutchman silver in 1992. Burnham, a three-time Olympian, won the silver in the 470 in 1992, crewing for Morgan Reece. Burnham is the oldest member of the U.S. sailing team. He competed in every Olympic trials since 1980.

After Saturday Britain's Ben Ainslie completed a remarkable comeback from a protest lodged in race two weeks earlier to win the gold medal in the Finn class, Beke ended the reign of fellow Ethiopian Haile Gebrselassie with an Olympic record time of 27:08.19 on Friday.

In the women's 470, Natalia Vnukova and Sandra Azo of Spain took silver and Sweden's Therese Persson and Zdenka Zachrisson took bronze. The gold medal had already been clinched by Sofia Bekatorou and Amilia Tsoulfa of Greece.

In the Yngling class, Ruslana Taras Ganna Kalitina and Svitlana Matveyeva of Ukraine took the silver. The Danish crew of Dorthe Jensen, Helle Jespersen and Christina Borregaard Olsen took bronze. The gold already had been clinched by Britain's Shirley Robertson, Sarah Webb and Sarah Aynon on Thursday.

Shooting

Men's 25-meter rapid fire pistol: Ralf Schumann of Germany shot 102.9 in the final round Saturday to win the gold medal.

Schumann and Russians Sergei Poliakov and Sergei Alifirenko were tied at 99.2 after the qualifying round, while their closest competitor was four points back.

In the final, in which points are measured in fractions and the highest possible score is 10.9, Schumann shot less than 10 only once in his 10 attempts.

Poljakov shot 100.7 in the final to finish with the silver, and Alifirenko shot 100.3 and won the bronze.

In rapid-fire pistol, competitors fire at five targets rapid succession. When the green light goes off, the shooter fires one shot at one target, then pivots to the next target, and continues until all five have been shot.

Badminton

Women's doubles: China won the gold and silver medals Saturday, with top-seeded Zhang Jiewen and Yang Wei beating Huang Si and Gao Ling in the final match. The Chinese women were equal in their three-medal sweep in the Sydney Games. Ra Kyung-min and Lee Kyung-won of South Korea beat China's Zhao Tingting and Wei Yili 10-15, 15-9, 15-7 for the bronze medal.

Zhang and Yang rallied to get the gold medal 7-15, 15-4, 15-8, winning several long, entertaining rallies in the third game. The Chinese won 94 strokes over the top ahead 7-0. Huang and Gao got no closer than 7-11 and Zhang smashed the winning



Kevin Burnham does a backflip off the boat after he and Paul Foerster of the U.S. win the gold medal in the men's double-handed 470 dinghy sailing event Saturday in Athens, Greece. It was the first Olympic medal for Burnham and Foerster.

point with an overhead and hugged Yang.

Track and field

Men's 10,000 meters: Kenenisa Bekele ended the reign of fellow Ethiopian Haile Gebrselassie with an Olympic record time of 27:08.19 on Friday.

Bekele, 31, and suffering from an Achilles tendon injury, had won the last two Olympic 10,000 races. He finished fifth.

Weightlifting

Women's 75+ kg: Tang Gonghong of China broke world records in the clean and jerk and total lift for women's super-heavyweights Saturday while winning the gold medal.

Tang raised 402 pounds (182.5 kg) on her final attempt in the clean and jerk to break her record of 385 pounds (175 kg) set in April. She needed the record lift to overtake silver medalist Jang Mi-ran of South Korea.

Tang's total of 672 pounds (305 kg) also was a record, surpassing the 667 pounds (302.5 kg) she lifted in April.

Women's 75 kg: Pawina Thongsuk of Thailand, 11 pounds lighter than most of the other competitors, won the gold in the 165-pound (75kg) class.

Thongsuk and Natalia Zabolotina of Russia tied with world-record total weights of 601 pounds (272.5kg), but all ties are broken on body weight and this wasn't close. Thongsuk could have dropped less than a pound and competed Thursday at 152 pounds (69kg), while Zabolotina weighed slightly less than the 163-pound weight limit.

Cycling

Men's individual pursuit: Britain's Bradley Wiggins won the gold medal Saturday, finishing the 4,000-meter final in 4:16.304.

Wiggins' time was 4:12.2 seconds ahead of Australia's Brad McGee, who settled for silver. Spain's Sergi Escobar, with a time of 4:17.947, defeated Britain's Rob Hayes for the bronze medal. Hayes also lost the bronze-medal race in Sydney four years ago to McGee.

Wiggins set the Olympic record of 4:15.165 in Friday's qualifying round. He led McGee by about 0.45 seconds midway through the 16-lap final — and pulled away steadily as the race went along.

Men's team sprint: Germany's Jens Fiedler, Rene Wolff and Stefan Nimke edged Japan for the gold medal Saturday

at the Olympic velodrome.

The Germans finished in 43.980 seconds. Japan's time for the three-lap race was 44.246 seconds.

Germany trailed the Japanese trio of Toshiaki Fushimi, Masaki Inoue and Tomohiro Nagatsuka by about one-tenth of a second after the opening lap, but Nimke and Wolff overcame the margin in the final two laps around the 250-meter oval.

It was Fiedler's third career gold medal. He also won individual sprint titles in 1992 at Barcelona and again four years later in Atlanta. Fiedler raced the first lap for the Germans in Saturday's final.

Rowing

Men's four: Matthew Pinsent won his fourth gold medal Saturday after his boat edged Canada by 0.8 seconds — a finish that left the throng of Britons roaring and waving the Union Jack.

Both crews were forced to wait in their boats while officials reviewed a photo of the finish. When the scoreboard showed Britain first with a time of 6:06.98, Pinsent fell backward and threw up his arms, eyes closed as he basked in the cheers.

Men's double scull: Americans Aquil Abdullah and Navy Lt. jg. Henry Nizum ran out of surprises, finishing sixth in a rare seven-boat final. France won the gold medal, Slovenia took silver and Italy the bronze.

Abdullah, the first black Olympian on the men's team, and Nizum used a stunning comeback to finish in a dead heat with Norway for the third and last qualifying spot in Wednesday's semifinal, sending both boats to Saturday's final.

While they handily beat Norway on Saturday, they were 8.99 seconds behind Italy after the first 500 meters and never threatened the top boats.

Women's single sculls: German Katrin Rutschow-Stomporowski ended Ekaterina Karsten-Khodotvitsky's Olympic dominance, beating the two-time defending gold medalist by nearly four seconds.

Two-time defending world champion and Sydney silver medalist Rumayana Neykova of Bulgaria won bronze, coming in 4.98 seconds behind Rutschow-Stomporowski's winning time of 7 minutes, 18.12 seconds.

Men's single sculls: Norwegian Olaf Tufte followed up his victory in last year's world championships with an Olympic gold medal in a time of 6:49.30, more than two seconds ahead of Estonian Jueri Jaanson and Bulgaria's Ivo Yanakiev.

Women's pair: The Romanian tandem of Georgeta Damian and Viorica Susanu, coming off their victory in the World Cup, won the gold medal, finishing in 7:06.55, followed by Britain and Belarus.

Men's pair: Australians Drew Ginn and James Tomkins, the defending world champions, had a lead of more than two seconds going into the final 500 meters and no other crew could catch them. Croatia got silver, finishing 1.81 seconds behind the Australians' winning time of 6:30.76. South Africa took bronze.

Women's double sculls: No one could stay with two-time defending world champions Georgia and Carolin Evers-Swindell of New Zealand. The twin sisters had a lead of nearly 1.7 seconds after the first 500 meters and cruised to the finish, letting up on the final strokes to finish in 7:01.79. Germany won silver and the British took bronze.

Equestrian

Team dressage: Germany kept its run of equestrian gold medals intact Saturday.

Germany has won the team gold in every Olympics since 1976, except for the boycotted 1980 Games. It kept the streak going with an average team score of 74.653 percent. Spain was second at 72.917 percent, and the United States took the bronze at 71.5 percent.

The drama over who would win the silver ended early, when Bettina Ferrel-Salat scored 74.542 on Beauvalais to clinch the spot.

Dressage is horsemanship's equivalent of gymnastics, performed in an enclosed arena with no jumps. The horse is guided through difficult steps and gaits by only slight gestures from the rider.

Table tennis

Men's doubles: China is halfway to another Olympic sweep.

Ma Lin and Chen Qi won the gold medal in the men's doubles Saturday, beating Lai Chao and Chuang Tsing of Hong Kong 11-6, 11-9, 7-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-5.

Earlier, top-seeded Zhang Yining advanced to the final of the women's singles competition.

Zhang and Wang Nan won the women's doubles title on Friday.

The Chinese have won every Olympic table tennis gold medal since 1992, when Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner won men's singles in Barcelona.

Gymnastics

Men's trampolene: Yuri Nikitin of Ukraine won the gold on Saturday, topping five-time world champion Alexander Moskalenko of Russia, with 41.5 points.

Archery

Men's team: South Korea beat Taiwan 251-245 Saturday to win the gold medal.

In Dong-hyun, Park Kyung-mo and Jang Yong-ho won South Korea's third archery gold of these Olympics. Ukraine beat France and the United States 237-218 to win the bronze. The Koreans also won three golds in 2000.

Fencing

Men's team foil: In a two-time individual world champion Salvatore Sanzo survived a late charge by China's Dong Zhaozhi in the final bout Saturday to give Italy a 45-42 victory and the gold medal.

Tennis

Women's singles: In a No. 1 vs. No. 2 rank final that wasn't really close, top-ranked Jennifer Hearn-Hendren overcame a late charge by China's Dong Zhaozhi in the final bout Saturday to give Italy a 45-42 victory and the gold medal.

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Hamm's gold won as result of scoring error

Federation rules South Korean should have won men's all-around

BY EDDIE PELLIS

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Paul Hamm's gold medal has lost its luster.

A scoring mistake in the all-around gymnastics final cost Yang Tae-young the gold that ended up going to Hamm, the International Gymnastics Federation ruled Saturday. The South Korean got the bronze instead.

Three judges were suspended, but the results will not be changed, the federation said. The South Korean Olympic team will ask the Court of Arbitration for Sports to determine if Yang deserves a gold medal.

"We want obvious mistakes to be corrected," said Jae Soon-yoo, an official with the South Korean delegation.

The error Wednesday cost Yang a tenth of a point on his parallel bars score that made the difference between third and first.

South Korea failed to lodge a protest during the event, so the scoring was not changed, said the federation, known as FIG. The South Koreans, however, said they did question the scoring as soon as the routine was over and were told by the judges to file a protest letter after the meet, Jae said.

If the mistake hadn't been made, Hamm would have won the silver and South Korea's Kim Dae-eun would have received the bronze instead of silver.

USA Gymnastics President Bob Colarossi compared the mistake to a bad call in football that

wasn't discovered until after the game.

He insisted the decision by gymnastics' governing body should not put an asterisk on Hamm's gold medal.

Hamm scored 9.837 on parallel bars and high bar to close the meet, rallying from 12th place to first and becoming the first American man to win the event.

"Paul Hamm's performance the other night was absolutely incredible," Colarossi said. "It's unfortunate the judges didn't have the right start value."

A start value is based on the difficulty of the routine. Yang received a start value of 9.9 on parallel bars, a tenth lower than he got for the same routine in team qualifying and finals.

After reviewing a tape of the

all-around, federation officials determined Yang should have been awarded a start value of 10. With the extra 0.10, he would have finished with 57.874 points and defeated Hamm by 0.051.

Mathieu Reeb, general secretary of CAS, talked to the South Korean team about an appeal and expected it to be filed by Sunday.

Still, he said it was unclear whether the court would hear the case.

"Our regular practice is that field-of-play decisions cannot be reviewed by CAS," Reeb said. "We'll see if the Korean delegation has other legal arguments to submit to the court. We haven't had a similar case involving a problem of judging or scoring."

Hamm, practicing Saturday for event finals, was not available for comment.

Splash: U.S. women upset in 400 medley relay

SPLOSH, FROM BACK PAGE

Aussie upset U.S. in 400 medley relay

ATHENS, Greece — Petria Thomas overtook Jenny Thompson on the third leg of the women's 400-meter medley relay Saturday night, helping Australia upset the United States in world-record time.

Shane Rooney, Leisel Jones, Thomas and Jodie Henry finished in a world mark of 3 minutes, 57.32 seconds, breaking the record of 3:58.30 set by the United States in the Sydney Games.

Americans Natalie Coughlin, Amanda Beard, Thompson and Kara Lynn Joyce settled for silver in 3:59.12. Germany took bronze in 4:00.72.

Thompson became the most decorated American athlete in the Olympics with her record 12th career medal, including 10 from relays. She broke a tie with swimmers Mark Spitz and Matt Biondi and shooter Carl Osburn.

The United States had won the medley relay for three consecutive Olympics, and eight of the previous 11.

Coughlin and Beard had the Americans on world-record pace when Thompson dove in for the butterfly leg. She was quickly overtaken by Thomas and then Henry brought the Aussies home.

De Bruijn wins another 50-meter freestyle title

ATHENS, Greece — Inge de Bruijn of the Netherlands won the 50-meter freestyle for the second consecutive Olympics on Saturday night.

De Bruijn's time of 24.58 seconds was 26-hundredths of a second slower than her winning time in the Sydney Games. Malia Mello of France earned silver in 24.89 and Lisbeth Lenton of Australia took bronze in 24.91.

De Bruijn, who turned 31 on Tuesday, became the first woman to win consecutive sprint titles since the event was added to the Olympic program in 1988.

Kara Lynn Joyce of Ann Arbor, Mich., was fifth in 25 seconds.

American Jenny Thompson's bid to win the first individual gold medal of her career ended in a seventh-place finish. She finished in 25.11.

Australia's Hackett wins 1,500 freestyle again

ATHENS, Greece — Grant Hackett successfully defended his Olympic 1,500-meter freestyle title Saturday, continuing Australia's domination of the grueling race.

Hackett won gold in an Olympic-record 14 minutes, 43.40 seconds — nearly five seconds faster than his winning time in the Sydney Games.

Larsen Jensen of Bakersfield, Calif., earned the silver in 14:45.29 — lowering his own American record by more than 11½ seconds.

Germany loses three-day equestrian gold on appeal

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — France was awarded the gold medal in the three-day equestrian team event and Britain's Leslie Law got the individual gold after three countries won a joint appeal against an earlier decision that gave both victories to Germany.

The ruling Saturday by the Court of Arbitration for Sport means Germany drops to fourth in the team event while Britain gets silver and the United States takes the bronze.

Since the team event was also a qualifier for the individual medals, the decision stripped Bettina Hoy of her gold medal, giving it to

Olympic briefs

Funell of Britain took third.

"We have to accept that decision, but it's too much to take," Reinhardt Wendt, the leader of Germany's equestrian team, said.

In an official statement, CAS said it decided that the judges' decision to impose a time penalty on Hoy "was of a purely factual nature, falling within its exclusive jurisdiction."

CAS said the judges' decision shouldn't have been reversed by the International Equestrian Fed-

Law. American Kim Severson moved up to silver from bronze and Pippa

eration because the body had no right to do so. The decision cannot be appealed.

Initially, the judges gave Germany the gold and France the silver, while Britain took bronze.

The same officials, however, said Hoy might have crossed the start line twice on the show-jumping course, docked Germany 14 points, dropping it from first to fourth with 147.8 points, a decision that lifted the U.S. to third.

Germany then lodged a protest and an equestrian appeals committee reversed the judges' decision — and the Germans reclaimed their gold. Again, France was awarded the silver and Britain the bronze. The United States

was left empty-handed.

The appeal by the three countries to CAS challenged whether the equestrian appeal committee had the jurisdiction to overturn the judges' decision.

Crown's appeal of vehicular manslaughter conviction denied

SANORA, Calif. — A panel of judges has denied an appeal by U.S. Olympic synchronized swimmer Tammy Crow of her conviction on two misdemeanor counts of vehicular manslaughter.

Crow, 27, pleaded no contest in January to the charges and was sentenced to 90 days in jail. The judge agreed to postpone her sentence until after the Olympics.

Messages of Support

I am praying for an angel to sit on your shoulders and bring you all home safe—know you are loved by many. Ehenion. NJ

Worldwide Delivery to Army, Air & Fleet PO Box — BDUs & Clothing ALICE & LCI Gear PT Wear Travel Goods & Luggage Boots & Footwear

Better Specs, New Accessories

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Messages of Support

I have a brother and a cousin in Iraq. Specialist Brannon and Specialist Friend. I can not tell you how very proud I am of them both and yet at the same time how very afraid I am for them. I am sick to death about the anti and pro War protesters, the fact is that we are there and instead of protesting we should ALL come together and pray for the safe return of our soldiers, that would be the best thing anyone can do right now!! So please use this precious time for something useful!! With Love and Prayers, The Dier family

To "X-Man" I take it that you are enjoying the CDs soooo much that you can't write back. Remember Xav, place your faith in your abilities and your comrades', NOT your fears. Take care and hope to see you soon. Big Brother Andre.

Thank you to all of the brave military members and their families for their service to our country, and for answering the call to defend freedom and justice. We deeply respect both the commitment you've made, and the hardships you and your families and friends must endure. The Rinkunas Family

Beltre gives Dodgers a lift vs. Atlanta

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Adrian Beltre is carrying the Los Angeles Dodgers with one clutch homer after another.

On the biggest night of his breakout season, Beltre hit a tying home run in the ninth inning off Atlanta closer John Smoltz and a game-winning shot in the 11th to give Los Angeles a 3-2 victory over the Braves on Friday night.

The multitalented third baseman took over the major league lead with 38 home runs.

"There was one guy on that field that was going to beat us," Atlanta slugger Chipper Jones said. "Adrian Beltre right now gets my vote for MVP. I mean, that team would not be in first place without him."

Beltre also had an RBI double in the fourth and is batting .330 with a career-high 87 RBIs.

"Everything is going his way," Dodgers pitcher Jose Lima said. "A lot of people tried to give up on him during his career, but now he's proving himself. He's matured a lot at home plate. I have a lot of respect for the man because he's played hurt all year and he hasn't made any excuses."

Beltre drove a 2-2 pitch from Juan Cruz (4-1) into the left-field pavilion with one out in the 11th, capping his second two-homer game in two nights and snapping the Dodgers' two-game losing streak.

"It feels good, but it's not my main thing. My main thing is to help this team get to the playoffs," Beltre said. "After those last two losses, we really needed this one."

Giovanni Carrara (3-0) pitched two scoreless innings, evening the four-game series between NL division leaders at 1-1.

All-Star closer Eric Gagne allowed an RBI single by Adam LaRoche that put the Braves ahead 2-1 with one out in the ninth.

"I've been having a little trouble with my mechanics, just a couple of things I have to tune up a little bit," Gagne said.

Lima and Atlanta starter John Thomson each allowed one run.

"I've outpitched them, we outhit them and played good defense. Unfortunately, we made too many mistakes to Adrian Beltre," Jones said.

"It's amazing what happens when a player realizes that there's another half of the



Los Angeles Dodgers second baseman Alex Cruz jumps over Atlanta Braves baserunner Chipper Jones while completing a double play in the fourth inning of Friday night's game.

field, Adrian used to be like that. He used to be strictly up the middle and pull, and now he's realizing that there's a nice big field over there in right and he's utilizing it."

Cubs 9, Astros 2: Sammy Sosa and Nomar Garciaparra each hit one of Chicago's season-high six homers and Glendon Rusch (6-1) pitched seven innings to end

host Houston's four-game winning streak. Mark Grudzielanek homered twice and Moises Alou and Eric Patterson each had two-run shots.

Giants 7, Mets 3: At San Francisco, Pedro Felix homered twice, Edgaro Alfonzo connected off Steve Trachsel (10-10) and the Giants snapped a seven-game losing streak against visiting New York.

Boston inching back into AL East race with Yanks

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — After struggling for three months, the Boston Red Sox are getting hot.

Curt Schilling allowed three hits in seven shutout innings for his 15th victory and Manny Ramirez hit a grand slam to lead Boston White Sox 10-1 Friday night.

"I don't care about a grand slam, I care about winning," Ramirez said. "I know I'm a blessed player, a special player. Everything that I've done, I'm just happy."

Orlando Cabrera homered and drove in four runs. Boston, which has won four straight and 10 of 13, remained tied with Texas for the AL wild-card lead and moved within 7½ games of first-place New York in the AL East, the closest Boston has been since July 30.

Schilling (15-6) walked one and struck out six in a 79-pitch outing. He appeared on the way to a shutout but was pulled, joining the Red Sox, but wanted to save some energy for the stretch run.

AL Roundup

"This is probably the first time in my career where I came out of a game like that," Schilling said. "I'm staying out there for one reason and that's to throw a shutout and right now that means nothing."

Ramirez's 31st homer was the 16th slam of his career, tying Robin Ventura of the Los Angeles Dodgers for the most among active players. Mark Buehrle (11-7) allowed six runs in the first two innings.

Athletics 9, Devil Rays 5: Eric Chavez homered twice and Bobby Crosby went 3-for-5 with a homer to break out of a 3-for-40 slump at AL West-leading Oakland won its fourth straight and maintained a half-game lead over Texas and a 1½-game margin over Anaheim. Adam Melhuse also homered for the visiting A's,

who have 11 homers in the past three games.

Rich Harden (8-5) won his fifth straight decision, giving up five runs and seven hits in 5½ innings. Octavio Dotel got the last out for his 13th save.

Jorge Sosa (3-3) lost his third straight start, allowing six runs and seven hits in 5½ innings.

Rangers 5, Royals 3: David Delucchi hit two solo homers and Kevin Mench had a three-run drive to visiting Texas won its seventh straight.

Ryan Drees (11-6) won his fourth straight decision, allowing three runs and five hits in seven-plus innings. Francisco Cordero got three outs for his 38th save.

Rookie Mike Wood (2-5) and Jaime Cerda combined on a four-hitter. Wood gave up five runs and four hits — three of them homers — in 7½ innings.

Angels 5, Yankees 0: Ramon Ortiz (4-7) allowed four hits in eight innings to win for the first

time in seven starts since June 19 as the visiting Angels got homers from Adam Kennedy and Garret Anderson. The Angels won their third straight and remained 1½ games behind Oakland.

Jon Lieber (9-8) gave up three runs — two earned — and 11 hits in 6½ innings as New York lost for the fourth time in five games.

Right after left fielder Hideki Matsui misplayed a fly ball in the seventh inning, the power on all scoreboards went out and the public-address and sound effects system went silent. But the stadium lights stayed on, and the game continued without a delay.

Twins 5, Indians 1: Kyle Lohse (6-10) pitched three-hit ball for seven innings and Corey Koskie homered for Minnesota. The host Twins, whose AL Central lead was cut to one game by the Indians last Saturday, opened a five-game margin over the second-place Indians, who have lost five straight.

Jake Westbrook (11-6) gave up five runs and eight hits in 6½ in-

nings, losing for the first time since July 15.

Tigers 8, Mariners 3: Craig Monroe went 4-for-5 with a tie-breaking homer at Detroit and Nate Lohme (10-7) allowed two runs and six hits in seven innings.

Ichiro Suzuki was back in the lineup after leaving Wednesday night's game against Kansas City when he was hit in the head by a pitch. He went 3-for-4.

Ron Kline (4-4) allowed five runs — four earned — and eight hits in six innings.

Blue Jays 14, Orioles 4: Chris Woodward hit his first career grand slam and Orlando Hudson had three hits as visiting Toronto stopped a four-game road losing streak. Eric Hinske also homered for the last-place Blue Jays, 3-8.

Interim manager John Gibbons.

Javy Lopez, David Newhan and Melvin Mora homered for Baltimore, who lost to the Yankees, all at home by a combined score of 33-9.

Reds 2, Diamondbacks 0: Randy Johnson (22-1) struck out 14 in the second straight game and joined Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan (215) as the only pitchers to reach double digits 200 times, yet still wound up with a loss.

Visiting Cincinnati scored an unearned run in the first inning and Barry Larkin's RBI single made it 2-0 in the eighth. Luke Hudson (1-1) won his second career start.

Phillies 4, Brewers 2: Jim Thome and Bobby Abert homered and Eric Milton (21-2) pitched seven innings to end visiting Philadelphia's seven-game losing streak.

Expos 4, Rockies 3: Tony Batista hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth and had three RBIs for visiting Montreal, which overcame a scary injury to first baseman Nick Johnson.

Royce Clayton's shot took an odd bounce and hit Johnson in the face. He lay on the field for about 10 minutes before being rolled over, then was strapped to a stretcher and carted off the field about five minutes later. He remained conscious and was taken to a hospital for X-rays.

Kennedy, Kendall suspended for fighting

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Colorado Rockies pitcher Joe Kennedy was suspended Friday for five games and Pittsburgh Pirates catcher Jason Kendall four for their parts in a bench-clearing brawl Sunday.

Both were also fined an undisclosed amount.

Kennedy declined to comment Friday, but Rockies manager Clint Hurdle said the left-hander



appealed the suspension. Kendall said he also appealed.

The brawl started when Kennedy hit Kendall with a pitch and, after an exchange of words, Kendall rushed the mound. After a brief wrestling match that brought players out of both dug-

outs and bullpens, order was restored.

Mets' McEwing out for season

SAN FRANCISCO — New York Mets infielder Joe McEwing is out for the season after breaking a bone in his left leg.

McEwing was placed on the 60-day disabled list Friday, a day after getting hurt in the second game of a doubleheader at Colorado. McEwing has a broken fibu-

la and was told it would take 6-8 weeks to heal.

McEwing was hitting .254 with one homer and 16 RBIs in 75 games.

Clemens to start Monday

HOUSTON — Houston pitcher Roger Clemens, nursing a strained right calf muscle, anticipates being able to start Monday against Philadelphia.

"I don't plan on doing any seri-

ous running until I go out to the mound on Monday," Clemens said after a bullpen session Friday.

Clemens left in the fourth inning Wednesday against Philadelphia while running to first base after lining a two-run single to right field.

The six-time Cy Young Award winner is 12-4 with a 2.94 ERA.

Rose owes IRS \$1 million

PLANTATION, Fla. — Pete Rose owes almost \$1 million in back federal taxes, but is making monthly payments on the debt, his representative said Friday.

The Internal Revenue Service filed a federal tax lien in Broward County on Tuesday alleging that baseball's career hits leader owes \$973,693.28 in back taxes from 1997 to 2002.

Ross Tannenbaum, president of Dreams Inc., the marketing firm that handles Rose's business affairs, said Friday that the lien is against a home Rose owns in California. He said the filing is not an indication that the former Cincinnati Reds star and manager is in danger of returning to prison over his taxes.

Rose, 63, served a five-month sentence in 1990 and 1991 for filing false tax returns.

City inspecting Wrigley

CHICAGO — The city of Chicago has hired an independent company to inspect Wrigley Field after threatening to cancel Monday night's home game against Milwaukee if the Cubs can't prove the 90-year-old ballpark is safe.

Construction Technology Laboratories will evaluate the ballpark and verify that repairs made in 2001 were completed correctly, Buildings Commissioner Stan Kaderbek said Friday.

The team has said it would comply with the city's request for a new review. The Cubs conducted full inspections of the upper deck and mezzanine levels in July.

"We will continue to respond to these new questions from the city," the Cubs said in a statement released Friday. "If the city chooses to make further inspections, it will find what two structural engineers have already found: Wrigley Field is safe and sound."

Pieces of concrete have fallen from Wrigley's upper deck at least three times since June, causing stadium officials to install protective netting.

Red Sox activate Bellhorn

CHICAGO — Boston Red Sox infielder Mark Bellhorn was activated from the disabled list Friday and he joined the team in Chicago for the start of a six-game road trip.

Bellhorn broke his left thumb Aug. 1 when he was hit by a pitch from Minnesota Twins closer Joe Nathan.

Bellhorn, in his first season with Boston, is batting .256 with 13 home runs and 56 RBIs in 98 games. He played two games in a rehabilitation stint with Pawtucket of the International League.

To make room on the roster for Bellhorn, the Red Sox optioned infielder Earl Snyder to Pawtucket. Snyder was called up Tuesday when third baseman Kevin Youkilis was placed on the 15-day disabled list.



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SPORTS



Owens' promising debut overshadowed by likely season-ending injury to RB Buckhalter, Page 23

Last big splash

Phelps wins record 8th medal of Games without getting wet; U.S. sets world record in 400 relay on final day of swimming

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The United States won the men's 400-meter medley relay in world-record time Saturday night, giving Michael Phelps his record eighth medal of the Athens Olympics without him getting into the pool.

Aaron Peirsol, Brendan Hansen, Ian Crocker and Jason Lezak won in 3 minutes, 30.68 seconds, lowering the former mark of 3:31.54 set by the Americans in last year's world championships in Barcelona, Spain.

Germany took silver in 3:33.62, while Japan earned bronze in 3:35.22.

Phelps gave up his spot in the final to Crocker, who finished second to the 19-year-old in the 100 butterfly Friday night. Phelps sat with the U.S. team on the pool deck during the final, leading cheers during the race.

He earned a gold for swimming in the preliminaries, giving him six golds and two bronzes in the eight-day swimming competition that ended Saturday night. That ties Soviet gymnast Aleksandr Dityatin's record of eight medals in one Olympics, set in the boycotted 1980 Moscow Games.

Peirsol swam the leadoff backstroke leg in a world-record 53.45 seconds, lowering the mark he already held.

Hansen outswam rival Kosuke Kitajima on the breaststroke leg, touching the wall ahead of the Japanese star. Kitajima swept the 100 and 200 breaststroke races in Athens, while Hansen settled for silver and bronze medals.



AP

The United States' Aaron Peirsol reacts after swimming the backstroke leg of the 400-meter medley relay at the Olympic Aquatic Centre on Saturday. The United States won the gold in a world record time of 3:30.68.

SEE SPLASH ON PAGE 27

Review shows judges erred in awarding men's all-around gold to U.S. gymnast Paul Hamm

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■ Roundup of Saturday's medal events in Athens, Page 26



Jasikevicius hits clutch three as Lithuania hands U.S. men's basketball team second loss of Olympics

Page 25

Medal count

Leaders after 131 medal events in the 2004 Olympics on Saturday, Aug. 21:

| Country | G | S | B | Total |
|---------------------|----|----|----|-------|
| United States | 19 | 15 | 12 | 46 |
| China | 18 | 12 | 10 | 40 |
| Russia | 5 | 13 | 13 | 31 |
| Australia | 11 | 6 | 9 | 26 |
| Germany | 7 | 7 | 11 | 25 |
| Japan | 12 | 5 | 5 | 22 |
| France | 7 | 5 | 7 | 19 |
| South Korea | 5 | 10 | 4 | 19 |
| Britain | 6 | 6 | 6 | 18 |
| Italy | 5 | 6 | 5 | 16 |



Beltre's blasts boost Dodgers over Braves; give him major league lead in homers

Page 30



Red Sox roll over White Sox, make up ground on Yankees in AL East

Page 30



Cink leads NEC Invitational through two rain-filled rounds

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Germany loses three-day equestrian medal on appeal Page 27